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October 2005

The Highlands Courier

The Avro Eagle

Janusz Zurakowski

The story of the Avro Arrow has become well known to Canadians, and its cancellation continues to be a hot topic even 40 years later. Janusz Zurakowski was the chief test pilot for the Arrow program and participated throughout the development period. Janusz who later settled on the shores of Lake Kamaniskeg near Barry's Bay passed away in 2004 but his legend will forever soar.

Read more page 2

the INSIDE SCOOP

God and Lotteries

Astonishing information revealing to you, and you alone, how together we will win the lottery!

Organic automobile

Minden entrepreneur has found a transportation solution that doesn't have the environment paying the cost to save you money.

A Question of Sovereignty

The arrest of Marc Emery and his possible extradition to the U.S. is a precedent that should alarm all independent thinking Canadians.



Photos by Andrea Hillo

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Page 16





Highlands in living colour



Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward

See page 8

Janusz Zurakowski

The Avro Eagle



Lest We Forget

Sixty Five years ago an important historical event occurred on September 15th, commemorated as the Battle of Britain. It was a result of Hitler's battle orders to his airforce, Luftwaffe, to completely destroy Britain's air potential, thereby facilitating a speedy invasion of Britain and a victory for Germany in World War Two. Marshall of the Luftwaffe, Hermann Goering complied by assigning three air fleets for the assignment, consisting of over 1,000 fighters and over 1,300 bombers. The German fleet assemblies were stationed close to England in nearby France, Holland and Norway, and the Battle of Britain began on August 8th, 1940.

Britain's life or death struggle took place in three intervals, with each interval lasting 2 to 4 weeks. British air defense, the Royal Air Force, (RAF) had highly developed radar, visual, radio and telephone networks that provided early warning of an air raid, thus enabling planes to take off and receive guidance in order to meet the enemy at an early crossing, return to base, refuel and meet the enemy for the second time. During the Luftwaffe's daylight raids concentrating on the City of London during the final phase of the Battle of Britain, Winston Churchill had to be assured that although there were no more reserves, planes would refuel three or four times in order to have full squadrons flying at all times. The effort paid off, and on September 15th, 1940 Hitler called off the invasion of Britain scheduled for the 17th.

Volunteer pilots from nations in German occupied Europe, such as Poland and Czechoslovakia, established an enviable record while serving in the RAF, 145 Polish fighter pilots participated in the Battle of Britain, and 29 were killed. Credited with three combat victories in the first of three main events that played a part in the defeat of the Third Reich,



Sculpture created by Jim Smith.

Squadron Leader Janusz Zurakowski, recently of Barry's Bay was noted throughout the aviation world for his astonishing acrobatic skills.

continued on next page

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Janusz Zurakowski

the defeat of the Third Reich, Squadron Leader Janusz Zurakowski, recently of Barry's Bay was noted throughout the aviation world for his astonishing acrobatic skills.

In 1951 Zurakowski emigrated to Toronto to take the position of chief test pilot for Avro Canada. Flying the CF100 fighter, he broke the sound barrier with this Canadian designed aircraft. This model was to be replaced by the CF105 Arrow, a high-tech supersonic interceptor which Zurakowski had the honour of piloting on its maiden voyage. On the seventh flight of the

Arrow, this superb fighter pilot exceeded 1,000 miles per hour. Alas, due to lack of vision, the Canadian government cancelled the contract for the Arrow, and soon afterwards Jan Zurakowski settled in the first Canadian Polish settlement area around Barry's Bay. Reflective of those rugged pioneer settlers of long ago, the significant contribution of Polish airmen to the victory of Allied forces in the winning of the Battle of Britain is worth noting, lest we forget.

from page 2
by Patricia Reilly

Did you know?

The cancellation of the Arrow resulted in a mass exodus of highly trained technical manpower from Canada, for the United States and elsewhere.

The Avro Arrow was born out of the necessity for the protection of Canada. During the height of the Cold War 1950's era, the Soviets had introduced new long range bombers that were capable of flying over the North Pole to attack North America. This was a very serious threat as the continent lived in fear of a surprise nuclear attack.

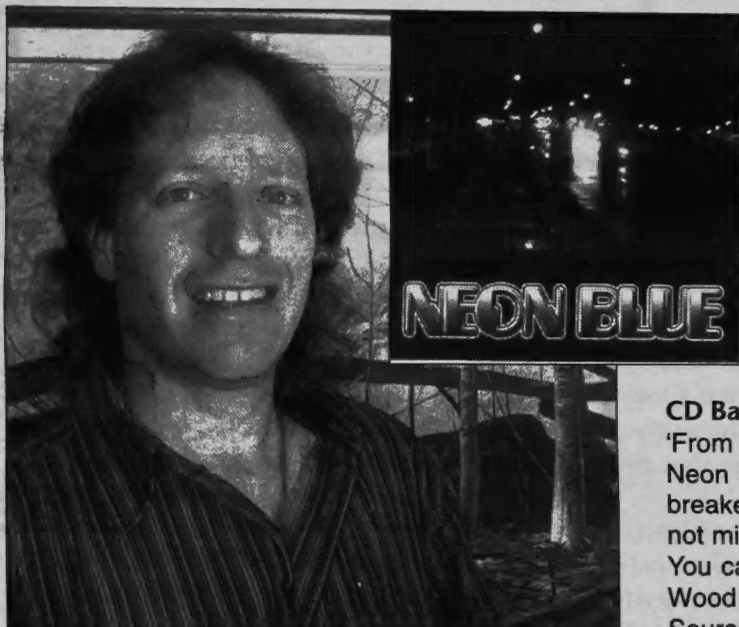
Its role was to replace the Avro Canada CF-100 Canuck as a supersonic all weather interceptor. Canada's then current fighter, the CF-100 Canuck, was a sub mach aircraft and not capable of filling this need so the design of the CF-105 Avro Arrow was implemented in 1953. Production was started and less then 4 years later, the Arrow was completed.

Roll out was October 4, 1957. First flight was March 25 1958.

A source of national pride, the Arrow incorporated advanced technical innovations and became a symbol of Canadian excellence.

As has been well documented, the Arrow program ran into political hot water, and the government of John Diefenbaker cancelled the program "Black Friday" to Avroites. The Arrow weapons platform along with the Iroquois engine was cancelled on February 20, 1959, less then 3 weeks before the MK2 Arrow was to take flight.

www.avroarrow.org



The success of Neon Blue's new CD has lead singer and front man Mark Doney of Neon Blue and his band excited about the future. See Rory McRandall's review on page 4!

It's a hit

Country Music News.

'This music has a rootsy, down home feel, that ranges from early country/rock sounds of The Eagles to the more traditional laid back feel of The Good Brothers.'

CD Baby: Brian Browning.

'From the vocals to the instrumentals on this CD, Neon Blue is establishing themselves as ground-breakers in the alternative Country Music genre not mimicking anyone currently on country radio.' You can listen for yourself, the CD is available at Wood Bugs & Guitar Nuts, McCaskies The Source, Bancroft IGA, Hannah Lithographers Inc, Bancroft Art Gallery, Cardiff Corner Store, Wilno Art Gallery, Ivanhoe Cheese Inc (Madoc area).

On the internet check out: CD Baby, Amazon Ca., Tower Records, Indie Pool

This month in:

The Highlands Courier

Neon Blue

Rory McRandall

4

God and Lotteries

Peter R. Snell

6

A Visual Diary

Erin Lynch

8

Girls Just Want to Have Fun

Jerry Grozelle

10

The Trains are Gone

Michael Barnes

12

Organic Automobile

Erin Lynch

14

Pinot Purist

Bill Young

19

Sibling Sports Scrawl

Brothers Greer

20

Calm Before the Storm

Danny Andru

23

A Question of Sovereignty

Chris Bransfield

24

Horoscopes

27

A Gift or Witchcraft?

Marvel Henning

30

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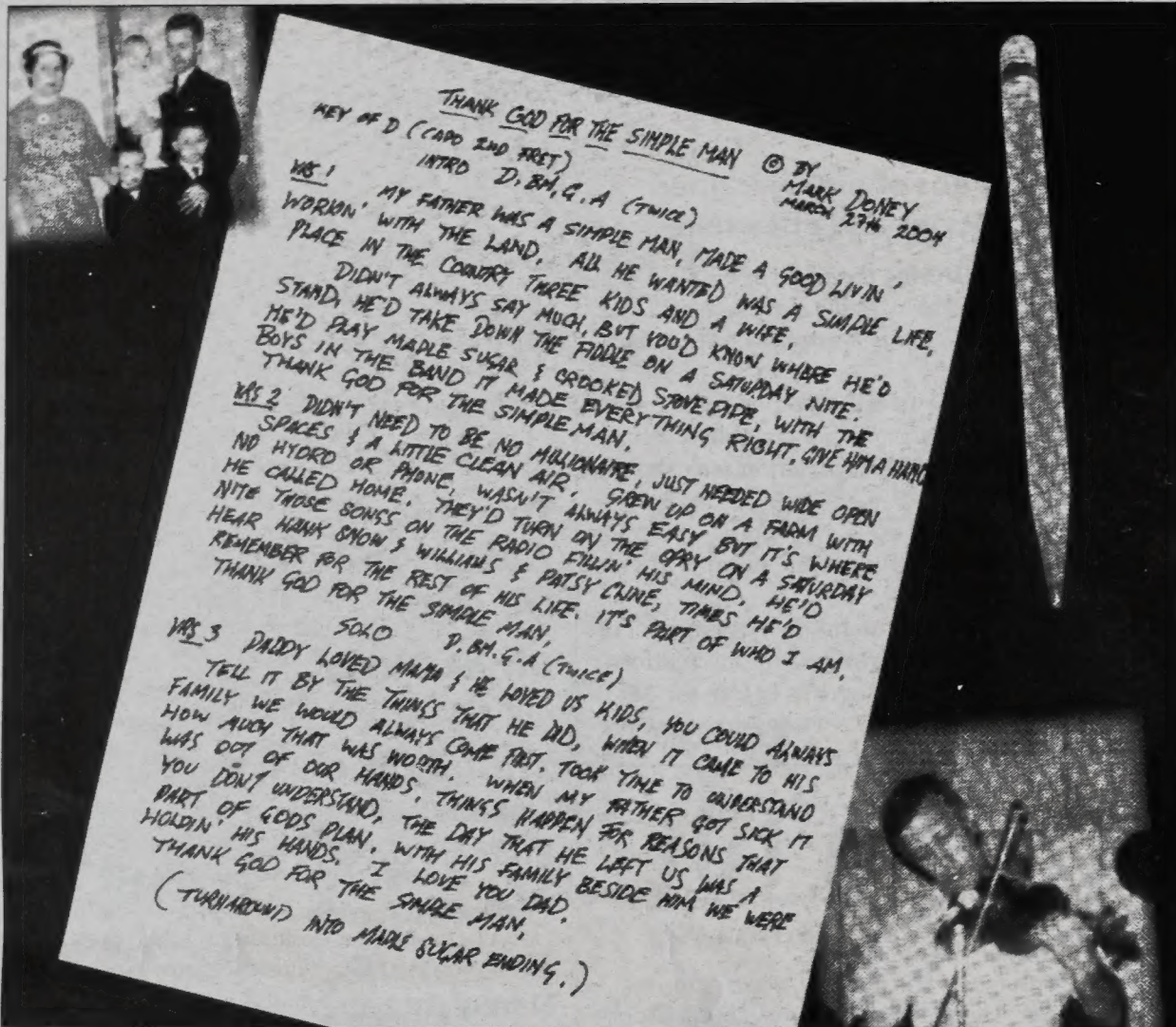
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In the spotlight

by Rory McRandall

NEON BLUE



lending suspected infidelity. While Mark has made it clear that not all of his music comes from personal experience, he captures the spirit of this kind of angry suspicion very well. I particularly liked the lyric "put another coat of paint on the town" in the chorus.

My favourite song on the album is entitled *Summer's Gone*. This sweet ballad again will evoke memories of growing up here in what the city folk call cottage country, and again pursues the familiar theme of lovers pulled apart by the dynamic of local people having to move away for work.

In *Nadine*, the seventh composition on the album, Mark's voice is used in a very emotional, plaintive style that is very effective and evocative. It's a unique sound that fits nicely into the middle of the rest of the music on the recording.

I Will Be With You (Dark Isle) is a tune that makes good use of Don Reed's fiddle along with some great picking. This is one of Mark's own favourites and the band does it justice with this recording.

Although I've already awarded the term "favourite" to another song, I have to reserve the right to use it again in regards to the final cut, *Thank God For The Simple Man / Maple Sugar*. This is a tribute written to the late Murray Doney, father of the three brothers who form the heart of this band. Murray died in March of 2004 and Mark wrote the tune that very month. I can imagine him tapping his toe to the simple but catchy percussions which drive the rhythm. Don Reed's fiddle again features prominently, a clear nod to Murray's own instrument which he played for years in Clover, the predecessor to Neon Blue.

There are several other songs on this CD, many of which are likely to be particular favourites of other listeners. The preferences above are all strictly my own.

This a first recording of which the band can be rightfully proud. It is professionally performed and recorded and there is a lot of heartfelt emotion poured into the songs. Doney brothers Mark, Dale and Sean along with Randy Musclow are Neon Blue. They are joined on this album by Jon Park-Wheeler, Don Reed, Ken Harnden and Doug Johnson.

The CD is available at many local stores in and around Bancroft, and could certainly be purchased at any of Neon Blue's live performances this fall. Keep an eye open, the boys are certainly coming to a stage near you soon!

by Rory McRandall

The new recording released on CD in July by local band Neon Blue opens with strong, steel guitar and immediately gives one the sense of the setting: North Hastings. References to the change of seasons and the tourists going home begin the tale of a lost love who has moved away, a theme as familiar to local residents as it is to our Newfoundland cousins. People often move away from here, leaving behind loved ones and lovers and Mark Doney's lyrics tell the tale so well.

This CD is full of toe-tapping, professional instrumental rhythms and strong vocals which do justice to Mark's well crafted songs.

All That I Need, the second cut, is a love song to Sherrie, Mark's partner of many years with whom he will officially tie the knot this summer. One might expect this song to be played prominently at their wedding reception, but I suspect that it may soon be a staple at such celebrations.

The feeling that the music was written in and about life in North Hastings persists through many of the songs, particularly *Katie*, the third song. Many a local boy will have pleasant memories brought to mind while humming along to this tune.

The tempo is cranked up with *Where Do You Go*, a torchy, hard-driving number that is all about chal-

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A Love Story
by DJ McFadden



Rising swiftly to silence the rude noise of the alarm was the way most mornings began. Pepe my wee toy poodle bounding off the bed, joyful in his ignorant self absorbed bliss bouncing about my feet, herding me towards the side door and his morning constitutional.

I wander about the kitchen performing the necessary tasks on the way to being ready to drive away from the house to work. Start the coffee, pack my lunch, feed the dog, and check my email. I dream of waking to my soul mate's face, sharing morning coffee and planning the day ahead.

I know I should not be so obsessed with my dislike for being alone, but on almost every level I rile against this feeling of loneliness.

The world is a couple's world. Even the reality of supporting a house and car seem so much more difficult as a single person. Chores inside and outside are all mine. No one helps me clean, cook, or rake leaves. The costs divided by one suddenly become overwhelming.

I chose to live in a very rural community where the available men are few and far between, as well as the locations where one might bump into one of the elusive available men. I of course began this course thinking, 'How hard can it be, finding a man?' Of course I was deluded in my thinking such a beast existed in the free and single category. As the years passed I realized the Internet may be my only hope.

Thus I began the self torture of putting myself out there on those single's websites, all of whom claim the end of loneliness is near and true love is out there, just waiting. I am or at least try to be a very positive upbeat person and have clung to the romantic fairytale that a person's soul mate is out there-truly.

However the years crept by and after many bad

relationships and one failed marriage a person begins to question the sanity of clinging to such illusions. Then I happened upon yet another single's website. This one was different however, it required a payment for use and put me through an intense 2 hour questionnaire, profiling my likes, dislikes, needs, wants and all the bits and pieces that if properly matched to another would reveal my soul mate.

Then it happened-I got a response. Tentative at first and it soon became apparent this gentleman had also been through a long single period. He too had sought other online single's sites and he too had all but given up then he got a nudge from me.

I am or at least try to be a very positive upbeat person and have clung to the romantic fairytale that a person's soul mate is out there-truly.

Racing home to check the site, heart pounding, then ecstatic joy-yes-another email. The calming warmth as I curled up with a cup of coffee and his latest email. Finally and truly it seemed like an eternity, phone numbers were exchanged and after a lifetime of waiting I heard the sweet sound of my soul mate's voice. Our first conversation was 7 hours long and I knew somewhere deep inside this was the one.

The joy begging to be shared, I told my closest friends. They of course, after watching me get hurt in the past, were cautious. I would not be deterred and in less than 2 weeks he arrived for a week long visit. While neither of us expected to fall immediately in love I think we both knew and yet fear still held me in its iron grip.

I told him on the phone that my greatest fear was looking into his eyes and seeing disappointment. I am not a vogue model and certainly on most levels I am a wonderful person; the book's cover is somewhat worn and a bit ragged. As I waited for him to arrive my mind whirled with the possibilities. Then before I knew it his rental car pulled into the driveway. I strained to watch from the kitchen window. Then I saw him, my breath caught in my throat and the fear he would be disappointed took over all rational thought.

The scene in the kitchen as he entered the house was strained and uncomfortable, but only for a few moments, then the ice was broken. After about 30 minutes or so he reached over and lifted my chin, forcing my eyes to meet his. In a gentle whisper he said 'See? There was nothing to fear.' I was met with the most amazing blue eyes and just as he promised no disappointment. Only a look of contented excitement, like a person finally believing that fairytales can come true.

Despite the friendly advice to take things slowly and cautious friends wish me and us only the best, but 'for God's sake take your time', we decided we were better together than apart. So in less than 5 weeks he moved his world to nestle into my wee house in Eagle Lake.

Now more than 4 months have passed and all I can say to those still searching; the wait is worth it. I have never loved or been loved so completely. The complete and utter calm of knowing the person you are with is the 'ONE' is a peace I wish for all people. Everything is brighter, more colourful and many times more thrilling. I can't wait to wake each morning and everything that was once a struggle has been eased by the addition of another set of shoulders.

DJ

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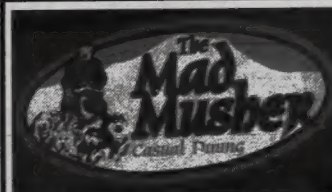
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God and lotteries

by Peter R. Snell

Please note: buried in this article are sure-fire ways to win the lottery. However, for superstitious reasons, you must read the whole article to understand these amazing, never-before released strategies for winning millions. All I ask is that if you use them and win, you send me 10 per cent of your winnings. I mean, it's only ethical.

What are the odds that God exists?

Believing or not believing in God is a bit like a crap shoot. I could take the position that I might as well believe, since the penalty for not believing is, according to some sources, pretty dire. The penalty for believing, even if I'm wrong, is - what? Being looked upon as an irrational fool? Hey, when the flames of hell are licking around your eyebrows, I may get the last laugh. Correction: if I'm in heaven looking at you burning ferociously, I'll show compassion, because that's what good people who want to keep their wings and play chess with Gabriel would do.

However, like a good researcher, I'll start with what I know. In Tom Stoppard's play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Rosencrantz flips a coin. It comes up heads ninety-two times straight. Whew! That's enough to make you believe in God. The odds of that are one in 4,951,760,157,141,521,099,596,496,896.

Assuming there are about 6 billion people (give or take a few million) on this earth, the odds that my parents would meet are way beyond calculation. Add the fact that it's nothing short of a miracle that your grandparents, great-grandparents ever met. On top of that, the odds that the particular sperm that made you (out of millions vying for the job at any one time) would create numbers that could fill this page and then some. But just sticking to your relatives, imagine: two hundred years ago, you had 1,024 ancestors alive. Five hundred years ago you had 33,554,432. A thousand years ago, you had 1,125,899,906,842,624, give or take a few. But wait a minute! A thousand years ago, there were only around 300 million people around. So by our calculations, all 300 million had to be some relative of yours, and of mine too, and that

means there still weren't enough to produce either you or me. It's a mystery for sure, even assuming some overlap; it seems like impossibly long odds that either you or I exist at all. It also seems that if we go back far enough, you and I are related. So, cousin, that is why I am revealing to you, and you alone, this astonishing information, preparing us for the dazzling conclusion in which, together, we will win the lottery. Keep it in the family, eh?

n't double your chances of winning; in fact it increases your chances infinitesimally. But as the ads say, if you don't play, you can't win.

Here are my very secret tips to help you, and just you, win big. First, pick numbers from across the available scale. If anything, give preference to those in the middle. Pick even and odd numbers about evenly. One number usually repeats in a string of numbers. In numbers in which there is a choice of one to nine,

tics); use the methods I describe here to pick a spiritually strong number. For further in-depth sure-fire wins, send me \$1 million dollars in a plain brown package.

Oh, by the way, don't buy all the number possibilities. You'll win the jackpot, but you'll have to pay out more millions than you'll take in.

Alright, after all these heavily researched tips I've given you, I know there are a couple of outraged academic statisticians who want to weigh in here. To them I can only quote epidemiologist John Ioannidis, who has some pretty convincing statistics indicating that 50% of scientific papers eventually turn out to be wrong. These are not as serious issues as lotteries, of course, but he has evidence to show that a large number of health studies actually turned out to be wrong. With Ioannidis's findings in mind, go on the Internet and check out the sites that give you pointers using statistics from lotteries and then extrapolate how you can nail the winning number down. Ioannidis says that the unsophisticated use of "statistical significance" using any number of randomly chosen hypotheses will result in some pretty different conclusions.

But Ioannidis is probably just one of those negative types. Avoid him, abide by my surefire method, keep the positive forces with you and you'll win big.

Oh, and about God. Well, some people say God can do anything he/she wants. So, could he create a stone that he couldn't lift? If he could, then he's not omnipotent, because he can't lift the stone. But if he can't create such a stone, then he's also not omnipotent. On this analysis, odds are that God is just one of us, just a stranger on the bus. On the other hand what about this: "This old world has three times as much water as land but with all of its twisting and turning not a drop sloshes off into space." What are the odds of that? I say it takes someone with at least godlike capabilities to do that trick.

So, dear God, if you exist, please help me (and my many cousins) win the lottery.

Peter R. Snell

**Just sticking to your relatives,
imagine: two hundred years ago, you
had 1,024 ancestors alive.
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ago, there were only around 300 mil-
lion people around. So by our calcula-
tions, all 300 million had to be some
relative of yours, and of mine too, and
that means there still weren't enough
to produce either you or me.**

OK, now let's figure the odds of winning a lottery. In the Lotto 6/49 lottery, for example, there are six numbers to match, between one and 49. Match them all and you win big. Unlike Rosencrantz's incredible flip, the chances of winning are the same as the chances of flipping a coin and coming up with heads 24 times in a row. That's odds of one in 13,983,816. Of course, if you get just a couple of numbers right, you will win something like another ticket. By the way, buying two tickets does-

for example, and in which you must get a string of six or seven right, you'll usually see a repeating number. Join a pool: that way you get more chances. Pick lucky people with good karma. Stay away from negative people who block those winning forces. As well as people, know the numbers to avoid; the odds of a string of all one number winning, for example, are pretty remote. Don't play a past winning number. In fact, track the trends. Don't use quick picks (despite statis-

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Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement Number 40980008

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Hospital Auxiliary

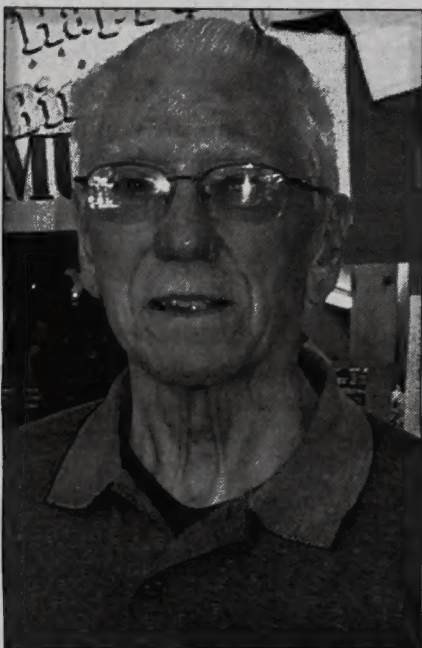
by Judith Vance

The Hospital Auxiliary is appealing to the community for additional members. Two of our most profitable businesses are in danger of failing without additional volunteers. A great deal of hard work has gone into establishing these projects. Money raised goes directly to our Hospital and Manor benefiting our entire community. The 'New To You Shop' on Flint St. - Gross Sales in the 12 month period it has been open....\$49,000. The 'Corner Cafe' located in the old Manor where 40% of the net profit is given to the Manor Auxiliary. Gross Revenue of \$115,000 with a net income of \$38,000. Donations to Hospital

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2005	Purchase of Hospital Equipment	\$10,000.

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Judith Vance



Murray Agnew

Forever in our memories



Pat Furneaux

Editorial

by Andrea Hillo

Just recently attended a memorial service for a truly outstanding citizen of our community, Murray Agnew.

Though it's very sad to lose such an integral part of a small community, it certainly gives us time to reflect on all the wonderful things that one individual can and does achieve within a lifetime. In these last few months we lost another shopkeeper, a first-class lady from Highland Grove, Pat Furneaux. Her contribution to her community also was never-ending. Proud to be who she was, proud of her store, community and the many friends she gathered again over a lifetime.

I feel humbled to have know both of these great, hardworking people and along with an entire community will miss them.

With Remembrance Day fast approaching it makes me think of all the lives lost that never really got a start with living. Can you only imagine what they could and would have achieved?

Andrea

Get happiness out of your work or you may never know what happiness is.

Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915)

It's All About Money

Recently most of us have suffered from a traumatic case of "sticker shock" as the price of gasoline first broke through the psychological \$1.00/litre barrier (an event that commanded daily news reports as first one region and then the whole country came to accept this new reality) and then, in the wake of the hurricane Katrina disaster, shot up so quickly and so high as to make \$1.00/litre seem quaint.

In reality, it is not really the price of fuel that is alarming, but the value of money. Everyone alive today has always lived in a world with money. Money, as the song says, makes the world go around. Money, so they say, can't buy you happiness but does help finance the search. John Lennon told us that "money can't buy me love", while later rockers opined that "the best things in life are free, but you can give them to the birds and bees, I want money." So prevalent is the presence of money in our lives that it seems as though money has always been there. It seems that money is a natural part of the world, that we couldn't exist without it (and let's face it, anyone who tries in today's world will soon find it practically impossible).

Money, however, is not a real thing at all. It is, basically, an illusion we have all agreed to. Five thousand years ago there was no money. People grew and or produced much of what they needed for themselves and those few things that they didn't produce they traded for. One farmer gave another farmer a pig and took a bushel of wheat in return. It was called barter. Eventually, as civilizations grew larger and more complicated, it became difficult to maintain a simple barter system, as the producer of shoes might not want to trade his wares for a bushel of wheat and so the wheat farmer had to find someone with a commodity the cobbler did want to become part of the deal. Money changed that by representing the value of all goods in a numerical valuation system.

Look at the money in your pocket. A few coins, perhaps a bill or two. What are they? The coins are either copper or some kind of nickel alloy. These are common enough metals. You can find copper in electrical wire and tons of it is thrown into landfills every year when renovators toss out the old wiring. Sure, some gets recycled and some people even make a living doing this. Still, it's relatively cheap stuff. Nickel is also in all kinds of products. They have value of their own, but it is generally unrelated to the value that we use when we buy things with them. As for the paper money, on its own its worth about as much as all the scraps of paper that you clean out of the bottom of your purse every few months or that you rip off a pad to scrawl a quick note to stick to the fridge with a magnet. The numbers printed on these coins and bills, five cents or ten dollars, are meaningless by themselves.

They have value only because we all agree to believe they have value. (And because the government says so, but that still comes back to us, because we elect the government.)

Still, the illusion of money is a pretty strong one. Most of us believe that what we want is more money. We want a raise, a new job with better pay, a job at all, a bonus, a lottery winning, a tax cut because they all mean we get more money. However, it really isn't more money we want. Instead it is the things that money can buy us that we want. We want more and better goods, bigger TV screens, expensive new clothes, a nicer car, a better vacation, more

fancy meals at fancy restaurants cooked by someone else. We want more time to ourselves, time that we don't have to spend working to get money.

Money has come to represent these goods so thoroughly in our minds that it represents them even in our dreams. In today's lottery obsessed world, it seems many of us are spending a lot of time and money dreaming about having more money.

Money is mentioned 141 times in the Bible, but the message it gives is somewhat contradictory. In Ecclesiastes 10:19 it says "Bread is made for laughter, and wine gladdens life, and money answers everything." While in Timothy 6:10 the message is a little different: "For the love of money is the root of all evils."

Which brings us to the subject of greed, always near at hand when money is being discussed. Greed is, I would contend, the motivation behind all of capitalist economic theory.

If money has no value in and of itself but derives its value only from a social contract as to its value as a tool for trading, then why isn't the value of money constant? If we all agree there is a theoretical thing called a -dollar, (or a yen, a pound, a mark, whatever) and this dollar is worth a certain number by which all goods can be valued with a numerical equivalent in dollars, then why is the number of dollars always changing? If this theoretical -dollar, is equivalent in value on one day to a litre of gasoline, then why is it not still equivalent to the same litre on another day? The litre hasn't changed.

Supply and demand are, of course, a factor in this equation. If litres of gasoline are lying around everywhere, then no one will trade any dollars for them. However, if litres of gas are buried deep beneath the earth or under the sea, mixed up with a whole lot of stuff that has to be refined, out of it, and only located in a few places here and there, then anyone who wants some will have to pay for it. If everyone wants some, and everyone does, then the price will be higher.

If that were all of the equation, then the fact that hurricane Katrina cut off production of 25% of American gasoline wouldn't have resulted in immediate spikes in the cost of gas already in the pumps here in Canada, especially since we get very little of our gas from the Gulf of Mexico. And if supply and demand were the whole equation, then the easing of world oil prices once governments in Europe and America released strategic reserves would caused the price at the pump to fall just as quickly as it had risen.

Greed is the difference. Given the excuse of a major disaster to hike up the price on gas already purchased at the old wholesale price, creating the opportunity to squeeze every last cent from the public. As the impact of the disaster lessens, the greedy are reluctant to give up any of their newfound filthy lucre.

In the end, prices always rise and the value of money always falls because everyone wants more, everyone is vulnerable to the effects of greed. When we all strive to get more money, in the end we are just left holding more dollars that are each worth less, and we have nothing more than we started with.

Remember, it's only money. You can't take it with you. (By the way, the Bible mentions love 865 times, so I guess John Lennon was right!)

Rory McRandall



painting by Gary Blundell

a visual diary

story and photos by erin lynch

Creative expression is about finding your voice. Once achieved, you are able to sing. When you find someone that knows your song a harmony can be created.

Beside the 92 year old log home in Highlands East is a building. Open the door and a tide of colour engulfs your senses. You can smell the paint drying on a stack of paintings. Along a wall, books are intentionally open, displaying master works for inspiration. Tacked photos depict places traveled while paintings communicate impressions these locales leave. But the images are diverse. Large richly covered canvas' textured and eroded they appear like a grid. Nearby paintings laid out remind us of a dream we once visited, eerie and cryptic.

Visual artists and life partners, Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward have created a life together, surrounding themselves in the reality and subject matter of their art. They live intentionally for their work which has been a passageway to where they are now.

Before becoming a visual artist, Victoria Ward was a professional playwright, collaborating with some of Toronto's most alternative artists: Theatre Gargantua, DNA Theatre, Autumn Leaf

Performances, Kensington Carnival and Crow's Theatre. Ward says that in high school she wanted to become a painter but ended up in sketch comedy after graduating from York University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

In the mid 90s she was successful, but not content. "I started feeling stuck. I wasn't going anywhere, I wasn't making any money and I was feeling crushed by the collaborative process," says Ward. "I met Gary. He had a different attitude. He wasn't compelled by convention. In theatre you always have a master," says Ward.

Ward says his ideas were refreshing. He had a great lifestyle of going on trips and doing sketches. She began going with Blundell while he sought out his muses and began dabbling visually herself. Blundell looked at her sketches and thought they were really good, showing them to his art dealer.

"I suddenly knew what my voice was. I began to unleash material visually. Once I started painting it was like I had 50,000 paintings in my head," says Ward.

Ward has been seriously painting for eight years. She describes her work as rugged and fused together. "It's like a visual diary. I'm still a writer. I travel places. I absorb. I don't do sketches, it comes

out in paintings. There's no specific plan," states Ward.

A trained geologist Blundell for years divided his time coordinating programs for wildlife conservation, playing in two bands and painting. Painting steadily for 20 years, Blundell says the first 10 years was an education process.

"I was doing representational landscapes. I learned a lot but I quickly became bored," says Blundell.

After a near-death experience when his appendix burst unnoticed, Blundell decided he needed to focus on one thing.

"I've tried a lot of things but painting is what I like the best," says Blundell.

So in the mid 90s Blundell reduced his full time job and created a consulting company which allowed him to paint 50% of the time. In the last 2 years he has reduced his consultation work to a bare minimum. Blundell has been exhibiting in commercial and private galleries for the last 11 years. He was artist-in-residence at the Straumur Arts Commune, Iceland in 2001 and at Pouch Cove in Newfoundland in 1998. In the summer he teaches at the Haliburton School of the Arts.

His paintings are a reflection of his geological

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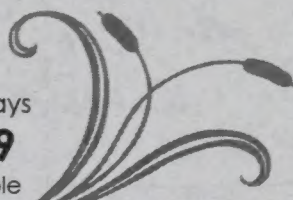
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painting by Victoria Ward

Continued from page 8

background. He paints patterns he finds in landscapes, especially in rock. Using a router the surfaces are textured. He says his work looks like what the earth does to rock.

"Each painting is as much about me as it is about the object," says Blundell.

"Art can't be successful without a reference point. If it's insanely introspective you should keep it locked in your room," agrees Ward.

Both admit that as a couple it's financial madness. As artists you just don't make much money. However both are committed to their art and to supporting each other's work. They attribute their success to being honest about their abilities and weaknesses in helping manage each other's career. "We don't have a problem with each other succeeding," says Blundell.

As the couple prepares for Marks and Concession (a joint exhibit that began last spring at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa and is travelling to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery this November) the melody of their creative voices is becoming stronger and clearer as they hone their craft.

For more information on both artists visit their website www.hotspurstudio.com

For all that simply is... even though 'it' is a squash

In 1621 a fellow by the name of Pilgrim Winslow wrote the only eyewitness description of the first Thanksgiving. In his brief letter to a friend in England Winslow mentioned "cakes and ale" as he described the celebration that followed the abundant harvest. He even included the words "hang the cost". No doubt he was thankful.

Winslow's thankfulness could be called serendipitous...a grateful heart in response to something unexpected, but certainly welcomed.

I recall the story of the Japanese Zen master who was walking along the river. The wind was blowing. Suddenly, he thought, "Wow! The air really exists". Here, in the wind, he was suddenly aware of the freshness of the air. And as the sun shone through the bare trees and he felt it's warmth it occurred to him that it was simply there for him to enjoy. And he realized that this is all that matters.

As I recall the Zen story, I think: "Yes, I know the feeling. A serendipitous experience of thankfulness for all that simply is."

I recall times in my own life when feelings of thankfulness were pretty hard to come by. Then, like the Zen master an awareness of nature and all that really matters was enough to renew my spirit. Take this fall as an example. The transition from a glorious summer to fall has been particularly difficult. I found it hard to recover my usual Duracell level of energy and it was causing me grief. Then something totally unexpected happened.

I couldn't believe my eyes. I got up from my desk and as I looked out my office window, I caught sight of some large, orange-coloured blossoms by the side of the house. Although it looked like squash I knew that it couldn't be because I hadn't planted any squash, or any other vegetables for that matter. Maybe I was imagining it! In fact, I went on with whatever I was doing and only later in the day decided to go out and take a look. Growing out of a junk heap of bicycle parts, wood, patio table umbrella and cast off electric vacuum sweeper, was the largest and healthiest squash plant I had ever seen. And what's more, there were squash on the vines, all coming along very nicely.

My battery was re-charged. I called to my husband and daughter to come out and share the experience. I took photos.

Like the squash I had risen from my own personal pile of junk. On days when we are preoccupied with our own wants and disappointments maybe all we need to do is look around at the things that are simply there for us to enjoy. There's nothing like a grateful heart to bring renewed hope.

On Thanksgiving my family will enjoy two of these wondrous squash. As we sit around the table, I will tell the story of the junk pile and my heart will be filled to overflowing with gratitude for all the blessings of my life, simply here for me to enjoy.

by Cheryl Jack



With faces painted (a little early for Halloween) the Jordan family attend Maynooth Madness.

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Girls just want to have *fun?*

story and photos
by Jerry Grozelle

Women from across the province proved that outdoors pursuits that have traditionally appealed to men - hunting, fishing, shooting sports and others - are not the males exclusive domain.

Eighty women converged at the Kinark Outdoor Centre near Minden on the weekend of September 9 to 11 for The Women's Outdoors Weekend (WOW) to prove that point. Another 35 who wanted to attend the event were disappointed to learn that they would have to wait until the next WOW session for their chance to participate because the program was limited to 80 participants.

Lori Wilson of Oshawa was one of the women who took advantage of the chance to learn more about the outdoors and try some activities she had never done before. She said it was an enjoyable experience.

'My favorite activities included rock climbing and the high ropes,' she said. 'I also discovered that I like archery and shooting. The cross bow is something that I would like to get into further.'

She enjoyed the rock climbing and high ropes so much she would like to see more opportunity to take part in those activities in future WOW events. She says she would also like to see more detailed archery instruction.

The 2005 WOW event was Wilson's first and she says it was a good combination of education and fun.

'I had wanted to go last year, but have forgotten what held me back,' she said. 'My husband often goes on

hunting and fishing weekend trips and I thought it was about time I had my turn (and his turn with our two young children for an entire weekend by himself!). I was also really interested in trying rock climbing and archery.'

Wilson says she invited some friends to share the experience but they found some excuses to decline.

'I tried to get friends to come with me this year, but they were either busy or couldn't afford it. I think they were just chicken,' she said.

'However, after reading my story and seeing my pictures, I have one sister and several friends that are truly interested in coming next year.' Spending the weekend at the Kinark Outdoor Centre in the company of other women with similar interests resulted in Wilson making several new friends.

'Everyone at WOW was friendly and made everyone else feel comfortable and at home,' she said. 'I will have to add that my cabin mates were the best. We all got along famously.'

Wilson was impressed with the overall experience provided by the WOW. 'The food was amazing, the cabins were comfortable and the grounds were beautiful and well kept,' she said. 'The Kinark staff members were terrific. They were friendly and helpful. I hope WOW is there again next year. The comics from Giggles Co. were fantastic. They did a great job. Keith [Beecroft] did a wonderful job organizing and running the event. A special thank you to the main spon-



Lori Wilson of Oshawa takes her turn at the archery range. Participants had the opportunity to try long bows (compound) or crossbows.

sors as well, including Canadian Tire, Carbon Express and Eastman Outdoors.'

Robert Pye was one of the OFAH staff members who assisted with the

WOW event.

'From the OFAH perspective, this year's WOW event was the best ever. The program began about 12 years ago. This was a sell-out event with a





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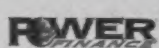
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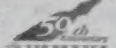



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continued from page 10

long waiting list of hopeful attendees; a strong indicator that OFAH Women's Outdoors programming is working to inspire more female interest in fishing and hunting,' said Pye, OFAH Communications Coordinator. 'The OFAH is pleased to provide this annual provincial program. We are always interested in expanding our efforts to include more participants.' Pye said the Kinark Outdoor Centre, with its excellent facilities, including a 60-acre lake, is an ideal location for the WOW program. 'Locally speaking, the Frost Centre is the birthplace of the WOW program. While there will never be another Frost Centre (and the OFAH continues to investigate all possibilities to re-open this Centre soon), our staff and participants were very pleased with the Kinark Outdoor Education Centre,' he said. 'Kinark staff members were excellent to work with.'

'My husband often goes on hunting and fishing weekend trips and I thought it was about time I had my turn and his turn with our two young children for an entire weekend by himself!'

Volunteers and sponsors are vital to the success of the WOW program. 'This year's WOW event was a great success thanks to about a dozen volunteer instructors, as well as key program sponsors including Canadian Tire, Eastman Outdoors, and Carbon Express Arrows,' Pye said.

Participants had a wide range of outdoors related workshops and seminars from which to choose. 'Workshops ranged from high ropes to fly fishing, wolf-howling to GPS training and outdoor cooking to target shooting. By far, the most popular events included bass fishing, archery and outdoor survival,'

Pye said. 'The majority of our participants have expressed strong interest in

taking up hunting this fall. In fact, we enjoyed welcoming back alumni WOW participants who returned to this year's event with their own archery equipment, firearms licenses and hunting stories. This program is definitely working.'



Mad as Hemlock

When it's too good too be true

Blain and Melanie Lewis are property owners in the Harcourt area. Last fall the Ground Hemlock that grows on their property drew attention from a company collecting that particular tree for cancer research. When the Lewis' were presented with the question to allow a harvest of the plants tips to be picked without harming the plant, the couple agreed. They were offered 10 cents per pound collected, though that certainly wasn't a motivating factor in their decision.

'There was a guarantee of no harm to the hemlock' Blain tells us. 'Because it was going toward a great cause like cancer research, and we had read some literature on the Ground Hemlock subject in the past, we really wanted to help and agreed' says Lewis.

Though Ground Hemlock grows only to be a few feet tall it could very well be hundreds of years old. He also explains that the ground hemlock is a staple in a deer's diet during the winter. 'Because of the height of the ground hemlock the deer are able to 'kick' away the snow and get to the goods'. The picking started right away and for the next month a woman would arrive for two to three hours, three or four days a week. It all seemed to work well though the Lewis' never received a dime for their contribution to 'the cause'.

Now let's fast forward to the spring of 2005. Once the snow melted, and the area was again accessible, the majority of the ground hemlock that was picked was dead.

Blain called the number that was given to him and was received with a sorry about your luck attitude. After several attempts to get some answers he decided to call The Courier.

We contacted the company representative and got the scoop. This is big, so next month we will present to you both sides of the story.



Bass fishing was one of the most popular activities of the WOW program, presented at the Kinark Outdoor Centre by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Jean Hunt of Cameron (in the bow of the canoe) and Catherine Nordstrom of Bridgenorth took part in the activities.



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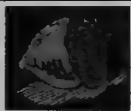
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In 1870 roads outside of cities were just plain awful. This is why transportation movements in Ontario were for many years via water or rails. Following on the same experience in England, enterprising folks built canals in eastern Canada. Trouble was that canal travel was slow and construction of these waterways expensive. Today the Trent, Rideau and Welland canals are survivors of this trend.

Railways held better promise for people wanting to go someplace else at a faster than walking speed. The route of what some called the Iron Horse was also an expensive building proposition but it did have advantage of appealing to people as well as heavy goods.

Between 1850 and 1880 there was a railway boom in Canada. Citizens were convinced to invest in railway enterprises because both government and private enterprise was actively involved. The CPR linked Canada from sea to sea and the National Transcontinental, the forerunner of the CNR, came a close second in long distance some time later.

The National Library in Ottawa has rafts of prospectuses for railways, most of which were not built. Those that did get going often never wound up where they were intended to go. Never heard of the Lindsay-Fenelon Falls Railway? That is because it changed names early on and became the Victoria Railway. Ambitious planners thought Haliburton would only be another stop on its way north. The line was projected to go to Nipissing and North Bay to hook up with the CPR but lack of funds and revenue put paid to that idea.

The Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa line never made it to the nation's capital. Some wags made a play on its initials and switched them to IOU. This was because the line, so many others, was always chronically out of funds. At least the government railway, the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway did get built all the way on its projected route - with taxpayer's money. Locals called the T&NO the "time no object" as its schedule was extremely flexible. We know it today as the Ontario Northland and sometimes it still seems to not always be on time.

But whatever the cost, railways were infinitely preferable to stage travel. Most would-be passengers could walk faster than the coaches. Check surviving timetables in museums. The stage from Minden to Bobcaygeon in 1869 was supposed to take six hours for the trip but this was likely over optimistic. Anyway, passengers were expected to help out when the jitney was stuck in the mud or otherwise broken down.

Railways were touted to do more than transport goods and services. They would be instrumental in populating central Ontario. No one thought that they might also have a hand in depopulating the rugged north country.

We tend to think of subsidies as a necessary - or unnecessary - evil but the railways became past masters at scooping up public funds. They usually obtained start up and construction funds from all levels of government including local townships.

The Trains are gone now

by Michael Barnes



Administrators were adamant about getting funds before they moved the rails forward. So it was that unlike most places, Haliburton actually had the telegraph up and running six years before the first train reached the village in 1878.

As a further incentive to moving rails, the province actually made changes in the political landscape. Three townships were taken from Victoria County and attached to 23 townships from Peterborough. It was thought that such a move would generate sufficient support for the proposed line. The new Provisional County of Haliburton held out a further inducement for construction of \$55,000, a whopping great sum in those days.

Did you know that Haliburton was a "provisional" county? Many years later Premier Leslie Frost was asked what made this new county different from others. He pondered and then said a "provisional" county was halfway to being a full county.

The new railway had built its first thirty-three miles from Lindsay to Kinmount by October 1876. There

it stayed for some time. In common with so many other small railways it had gone broke. Only when the province ponied up \$8,000 a mile and the Haliburton Land Company threw in another \$3,000 for the distance did it start to inch forward to Haliburton.

Railway building in the 1870's was a slow process. Men working with banjos - a common term for a shovel - completed work roughed out by teams of horses which pulled drags or stone boats to level track bed. Bridges and viaducts were completed. The right of way was cleared of trees by axe men and in many cases the stumps were left to rot. The standard 4'8" track reached Haliburton village 36 months after work resumed at Kinmount.

The other Highlands railway was even slower building than the Victoria line. Private enterprise was anxious to ship ore from an iron mine. A line was built from Snowdon Township to meet up with the Victoria Railway at Howland Junction. The business was taken over by the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa railway in the early eighties and the track did not link up with Bancroft until 1915.

Both railways operated for close to a century but rarely made any money. In fact the Victoria Railway had its best year in 1880 and from then on it was downhill all the way. There were no fancy services on either railway. They hauled mixed freight and the passengers had a seat, with no dining or other facilities.

Both lines had their troubles over the years. Flooding and rock falls were common. One small station was even wrecked by a tornado while others burned down. Fifteen miles an hour was not an uncommon speed. Some patrons said they got off to pick berries and then swung on the last car as it passed by but that was likely a local tall tale.

Ridership dropped as more people owned trucks and cars and even freight business was sporadic. The tracks to Bancroft were pulled up in 1960 and Haliburton also lost service in 1978. But the railway had done their part in supporting Highlands development. In 1983 the "provisional" was dropped and Haliburton became a fully fledged county.

Today the roadbeds of these pioneering railways are now used for public recreation. People look back on the railways with nostalgia. They remind folks of a slower, more peaceful life style. But this formerly welcomed means of transport did have its down side. There is a photograph taken at Highland Grove in 1910 showing settlers gathered together for the last time. The Highlands were a tough place to make a living and they were off to the western plains. They were leaving via the railway which had been promoted to bring settlement.

Michael Barnes

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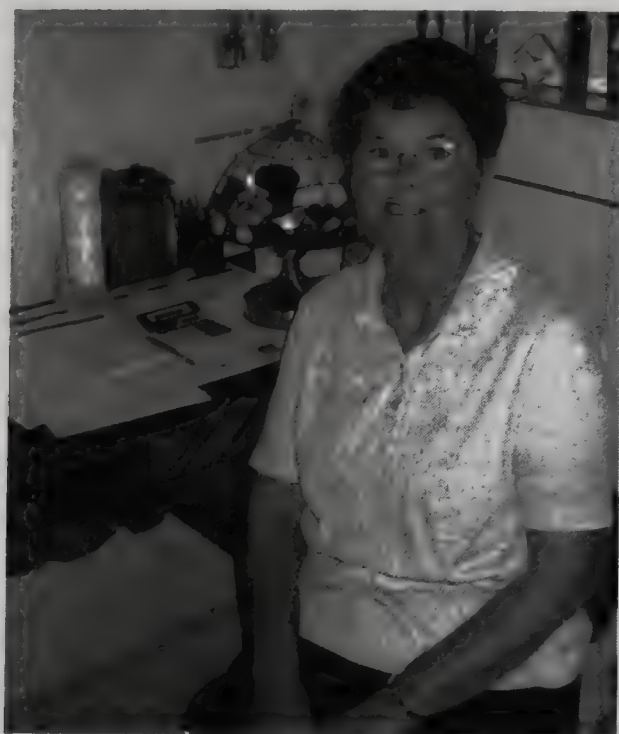
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On Friday September 23rd, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 624 conducted their annual Honours and Awards presentation. Legion members were presented with their pins. Eloise Somerville, Ladies Aux. Pres. - Ruth Vaughan, accepting 30 year pin for husband Tom Vaughan, Ian Scrimgeour, 25 year pin, President Dave Burton, Mary Mumford, accepting 25 year pin for son, Garret Holmes - Cindy Hall, Honours & Awards for Branch 624 - Len Crawford, Sgt. at Arms.

Few good men

by: Alan R.P. Golding

During the past double-decade, more time has been spent in funeral homes attending Legion tributes than has been spent in Legion branches attending other events.

Of recently, we have lost (4) very good friends, comrades, veterans, great Legionnaires. The most prominent would be Ernest Alvia (Smoky) Smith, VC, OC, CD.

In the early 1950's, Smoky was stationed at HQ BC Area, Jericho Beach, Vancouver, BC, where he was the Sergeant in charge of military publications. I was in the office next to Smoky, and I and A Cadre (Instructional and Administrative Cadre). Needless to say, we shared coffee breaks, luncheons, mess meetings, etc. Smoky didn't mind being called Ernest, but don't ever call him "Alvia" or refer to him as a hero."

Smoky referred to me as "Goldie" or once in a while "Goldilocks" / He could not understand why the military sent me, a Gun-Sergeant to the Seaforth Armouries to instruct foot-and-arms drill, particularly when we had drill instructors available from both the P.P.C.L.I. and R.C.R.

Smoky was a regular guy, on the same level as everyone else, although many members of the Armed Forces, both commissioned and non-com-

missioned upon meeting Smoky for the first time would salute him for his wartime feat (deed).

Another very special comrade and veteran was the late Jimmy Tyndall, Honourary Grand President of the Royal Canadian Legion. Jimmy served in just about every key office of the Legion, including Provincial President and Dominion Vice President. During summer months and weekends, Jimmy stayed at his trailer home in Ennismore with wife Rita, as did two of his V.I.P. comrades, Joe Kobolak and Erv Snyder. Jimmy spend many hours on Chemong fishing.

Next on the list would be Murray Agnew of Wilberforce, a lifetime local postmaster, grocery store owner and pioneer of the Douglas C. Hatch Branch 624 of Wilberforce R.C.L. The good old days when good friends such as Walter and Lucille Klapow, Earl Whitney, Wally Marks, Harry Dingley and Pat Gallen were all active in their branch.

Murray was a fraternal brother of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Royal Arch, the Knights Templar and Shriners.

And then there was Joe Hart, a longtime and devoted Legion comrade, a Part President of Oshawa Branch 043 who liked to do things according to the book. At Joe's request there was no Legion tribute or public funeral service.

Just a few good men who served their country, their community and the Legion very well in war and peace. We will remember them!



Just another day in the park for Charlene McConniell and her children. On display were some of Charlene's beautifully handcrafted pieces. The annual art exhibit is just one of many successful events organized by the Park's recreational committee, great show guys!

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Minden entrepreneur Steve Johnson has found a transportation solution that doesn't have the environment paying the cost to save us money.

Ten months ago, 21-year old Steve Johnson was doing a simple internet research on renewable fuels. Johnson is a mechanical guy, a star in autoshop throughout high school he went on to study aircraft maintenance engineering in North Bay for two years. But something changed in Johnson.

'I wanted to make a difference. By learning to fix airplanes I'm just adding to a polluting industry. I can use my education to help fix the problem instead of adding to it,' says Johnson.

Putting thought into action is the catalyst for change so Johnson followed an internet link saying, 'Run your car on cooking oil'.



by Erin Lynch

Organicautomobile

Today, the young man can be seen cruising local highways in his 1991 red Volkswagen Jetta. He's not stopping at the pumps as gas prices soar. And the smell coming from his tailpipe is reminiscent of something burning on the barbecue. That's because Johnson converted the diesel engine to run on vegetable oil. In fact the young industrialist is using used cooking oil that he gets for free from a local restaurant.

After doing some research on the internet and spending approximately \$300 in parts, Johnson created a separate fuel system to complement the existing diesel one. He says the biggest obstacle was getting all the right parts. 'Installing it was so much easier,' claims Johnson who says the mechanics took only two weeks.

The car still needs a small amount of diesel to start it in the morning. Once the cooking oil gets heated he simply flips a switch and the car runs entirely on the tank containing cooking oil, perceiving no difference from diesel.

'When it's 22°C it only takes a few km to warm up,' says Johnson who admits that this winter will be the real test.

With the same mileage, power and speed, Johnson says his car runs even better than it did before.

'Cooking oil has greater lubrication than diesel fuel,' says Johnson.

Johnson takes large plastic containers to Gramma's Fish and Chips on Hwy 35. Using a transfer pump he unloads the oil. This is a mutually beneficial arrangement since restaurants typically have to pay to unload their used grease. Once home, he strains the oil with a multi-filtration system he constructed himself. This collects any loose food particles remaining in the fuel.

A small shortcoming is a fatty deposit that collects in the car filter, requiring regular maintenance. This accumulation can be reduced by using purer cooking oil. Johnson dreams of a future where automobile owners can drive up to a fuel station filling up their car with vegetable oil and biodiesel, a renewable fuel that is a combination of methanol, lye and vegetable oil that can go straight into a diesel tank. This could eliminate our dependency on fossil fuels altogether.

On their website, The Canadian Renewable Fuels Association says that Canadian farmers grow millions of tonnes of crops that can be used to produce clean renewable fuels without hurting the nation's food supply. They state that this huge source is equal to an annual supply of 30 million

barrels of renewable fuels that is largely untapped today.

'Converting the car was about saving money but it was much about reducing pollution. The more cars running on renewable fuel, the cleaner our air,' says Johnson.

A new adversary to the gas industry, Johnson is full of statistics. 'If you compare emissions from a car run on diesel to one on vegetable oil there is a big difference,' states Johnson, 'Carbon dioxide decreases by 26% and particulate matter, the black smoke coming from a tailpipe is reduced by 39%.' Now Johnson is ready for customers. Launching his business The Organic Automobile, he is looking for people who would also like to convert their diesel engines to run on cooking oil.

With a consumer body demanding cheaper gas prices and a global necessity to reduce greenhouse gasses it is not unforeseen that soon the world may be knocking at Johnson's door. But for now, we in Haliburton County have him and his veggie car all to ourselves.

For more information on his eco-friendly fuel source, contact Steve Johnson at theorganicautomobile@yahoo.ca. For more information on renewable fuels check out www.greenfuels.org

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The Highlands Courier

This Month's
Coolville



Welcome to Barry's Bay, the Polish Capital of Canada, situated in the heart of the Madawaska Valley on the historic Opeongo Line. The Opeongo Line is home to the "Prussian Settlement" which was settled in 1859 by Polish settlers. This settlement had grown to 44 Polish families numbering some 182 persons by 1863.

"The Heart of the Madawaska Valley" can be found in its three vibrant communities of Barry's Bay, Combermere and Wilno. Each offers a unique cultural experience and a welcoming environment that makes both tourism and retirement living an integral part of their economy. From its early roots as a lumbering town, the Village of Barry's Bay has been the main service centre for the surrounding area. A healthy commercial core incorporates a wide range of retail and professional services including grocery and clothing stores, banks, restaurants, hardware/building centres, legal, dental and family medical practices.

The railway station, originally built in 1894 by the famed lumber baron J. R. Booth, was used for the Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway. It was

Barry's Bay

taken over by Canadian National Railway in 1922 and served until rail service was discontinued in the late 1970s. The village purchased the station and thanks largely to an effort of dedicated local citizens it has been restored to its former beauty and is used as a tourist centre and Art Gallery..

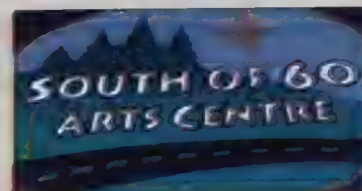
The name of the town derives from James Barry, who was a foreman for McLaughlin's Lumber in Arnprior. He had constructed a cabin on the shore of the bay as his headquarters. Lumbermen referred to this camp on the Kamaniskeg Lake as Barry's Camp on the Bay... Hence the name Barry's Bay.

The settling of Barry's Bay started in 1854. In order to encourage and keep up the settlement of the region of the County of Renfrew, the government built the Ottawa, Opeongo, Addington and Hastings roads.

The Polish and Irish settlers, who came to this area were immigrants who left their homelands primarily due to political and economic conditions. The Polish language is still heard spoken throughout the village.

The town sits as a hub with roads leading to Ottawa, Toronto and Huntsville. With the area's many lakes and rivers and located near Algonquin Park, the town has become a tourist mecca that swells the local population every summer..

The area is quickly gaining a reputation for quality arts and crafts. It has become home for a diverse group of artisans who practice the fine skills and traditions of the craftsmen of yesteryear.





Healthy living in Barry's Bay

We found these two girls (in photo above) shopping for their favorite treat - cucumbers! We also ran into Terry (photo right) as he cruised through town on a beautiful afternoon. Palubeski's Variety Store and Valumart are Courier Carriers found in Barry's Bay.



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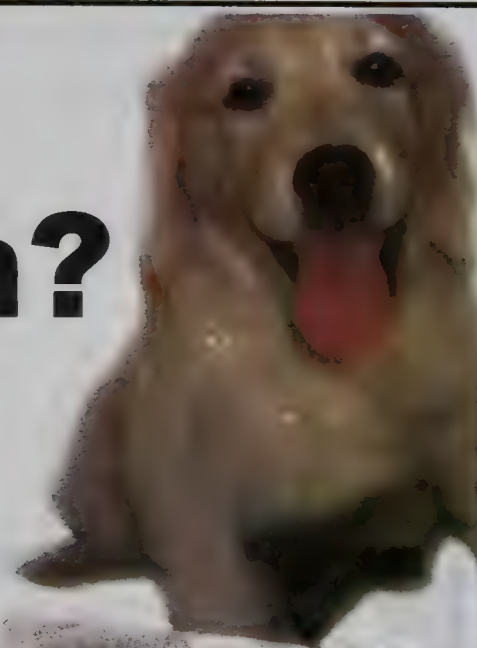
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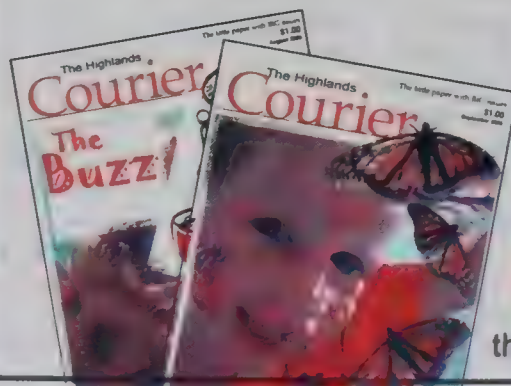
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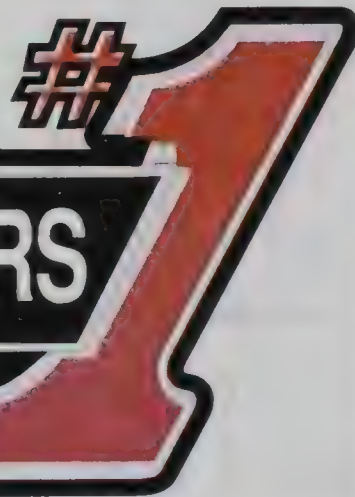
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A warm friendly atmosphere, unique shops and historical sites welcome visitors to Barry's Bay. The mural (photo bottom right) is in memory of The Mayflower, which sank in Lake Kamaniskeg in 1912. It can be found on the wall of Mayflower Store across from Generations Restaurant.



The Mayflower's Last Journey

Lake Kamaniskeg has her queen, she lies beneath the waves;
November 12th of 1912 she met her icy grave.
And through the swirling snow and wind,
nine others did she take,
but three survived her deathly grip, by coffin in her wake.
Four men clutched a floating corpse, another swam for shore:
only three survived the pull through an icy cold death's door.
The town of Combermere was grieved, so many had they lost;
the Mayflower's final journey had come at quite a cost.
Hudson, Pachal, Boehme and Bothwell,
McWhiter, Delaney and Murphy;
all seven went down with the ship at Kamaniskeg's mercy.
Young Aaron Parcher swam for shore,
his home was nearby;
he thought that he could save the rest, a hero's way to die.
Peverly, Harper and Imlach survived, O'Brien died on land:
the coffin of John Brown had saved the men who would've drowned.
A tragic day in history,
a shadow of the past can still be seen beneath the waves.
the queen, she rests, at last.
- Jackie Dorman Recoskie 2005

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Giving the gift of music - Bob Knox

Bob Knox was born in Toronto, later moving to Hamilton where over the years he became a marine mechanic. In the 1970's he moved to Kasabog Lake and ran the Blue Mountain Marina for the real estate company that owned it. When the Marina was sold Bob moved to Stoney Point Marina, until it too sold. He rented Kasabog Marine for several seasons and then transferred to Carveth's Marina at McCracken's Landing, Stoney Lake. Since the owner didn't service any Mercury products and Bob did, he began repairing the Merc's on his own. Soon this grew to a private business, repairing all makes. He continued to work part-time at Carveth's until just last year when he officially retired, still making occasional repairs by appointment mostly for friends and long time acquaintances.

During his teen years Bill started playing fiddle and guitar for a hobby. He played several seasons at Wonderland Ranch in Dunnville where he entertained with many well known country stars such as Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper. When he moved to Kasabog he joined in at jamboree's such as Freddy Miles' Havelock Hootery, and even hosted a jamboree monthly at Warsaw.

Along with the Peterborough Old Time Fiddlers, he has played for many nursing homes and appeared with Sean Eyre's 'Wired Woodshed'. One group of seniors called 'The Unpredictable Senior Teens' (which consisted of Vera Keeting, Mila Watt, Will Wright, Roy Reynolds and Bob) made a practice of playing nursing homes in Peterborough, Belleville, Norwood ect.

Bob and his wife Diane live on the east shore of Stoney Lake at Jack's Creek. Bob keeps abreast of the boating scene and even if he declines to do any major repairs, he will never completely retire because if someone is in a bind, he will always help them out.

Marvel Henning

Pinot purist at heart

by Bill Young

Pinot noir is the latest of the great European grape varieties to achieve distinction in the New World. The two c grapes—chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon—came first when Cabs and Chards from California's Napa Valley outplaced a list of classified Bordeaux and well-regarded white Burgundies at an infamous blind tasting in Paris in 1976.. Recently released Pinot Noirs have followed in their footsteps.

Referred to as the Prince of Grapes or the Heartbreak Grape, Pinot Noir has recently gained newfound notoriety in print and film. In the movie "Sideways", Miles describes his affection of Pinot Noir, "...it's thin-skinned, temperamental, ripens early. It's, you know, it's not a survivor like Cabernet, which can just grow anywhere and uh, thrive even when it's neglected. No, Pinot needs constant care and attention. You know? And in fact it can only grow in these really specific, little, tucked away corners of the world. And, and only the most patient and nurturing of growers can do it, really. Only somebody who really takes the time to understand Pinot's potential can then coax it into its fullest expression. Then, I mean, oh its flavors, they're just the most haunting and brilliant and thrilling and subtle and... ancient on the planet."

I recently had the opportunity to attend Malivoire Wine Company's August Cellar-bration where 2004 Ontario Wine Award Winemaker of the year Ann Sperling led us through different barrel lots of our 2004 Estate Pinot Noir - in her opinion (shared by those around us), the best wine to-date from this vineyard. The barrel samples differ by age of barrel and by cooper.. Ann included a proposed blend of new and older barrels, as well as a comparison to the 2003 vintage which has now had 12 months in bottle and the opportunity for the components to meld. A most informative morning!

Having been a huge fan of their wines for several years I have marveled at the improvements from year to year. I found their 2003 to be a fine home-grown example, not a heavyweight by any means but rather a fresh youthful wine brimming with red berries and just enough earthiness to satisfy the palette.

Of all the fine wine grapes, Pinot Noir is the trickiest to grow and vinify. It is often described as the Holy Grail of the vintner's art. It likes a fairly cool climate, which is why it fairs so well in Niagara, but the trouble is, with each unpredictable vintage, the result can sometimes be a thin tasting wine.

Relative to the classic wines from Burgundy

Niagara Pinot's are typically easier to drink and much more open and approachable after two or three years of aging. This is not necessarily a bad thing considering wine lovers today are more impatient than ever when it comes to putting wines down. Wanting to test this theory I took the opportunity to open a bottle of Featherstone Estate Winery 2001 Pinot Noir which I have been cellaring since its release in the fall of 2002. This was the first release of Pinot Noir for this winery and one that was featured at a Winemaker's dinner held almost 2 years ago at Wigamog Inn in Haliburton. The wine remains a favourite, bursting with thick rich tannins over-top of plum, cherry and vanilla notes. For those eager to compare, old world style Pinot is a combination of elegant and silky flavours such as raspberry, strawberry, roses, incense and exotic spices that are mixed with savoury, gamy farmyard character. The medium-bodied wine when made well, is consistently strong in the front, mid and back palette with a lingering finish reflecting its extraordinary complexity. New world style Pinots are generally the opposite with glorious jammy, baked fruit flavours, which are slightly fuller and riper. They carry a little more vanilla or spicy oak but all this body and richness is usually at the expense of the gout de terroir.

Despite its unpredictability Pinot Purists are always seeking out the best, because not only are they fantastic on their own, but they are one of the best red wines to match with food. For those of you interested in pairing Pinot Noir try classic matches like beef, duck, wild mushrooms or wild boar. It is versatile enough to pair with pork tenderloin, barbecued wild salmon or veal with a mustard sauce. Capping a decade of remarkable progress, Niagara's Pinot Noirs make a strong showing with high quality and great value relative to its Burgundian cousins. Vines Magazine hailed the 2004 vintage as Pinot Noirs breakthrough year in Niagara. I eagerly await the opportunity to sample the bottled product as it is released by wineries. If you have the opportunity to sample them you will realize that there is no doubt that the very best Pinot Noirs coming out of the Niagara region are as high in quality as those produced in France. There is no cure for the Pinot bug, but throughout the Niagara Peninsula you can find relief in many of the exciting new wines arriving on the market every season. In Niagara, there is plenty to tempt and tease Pinot Noir's evergrowing following.

Bill Young

Heavenly Touch Spa

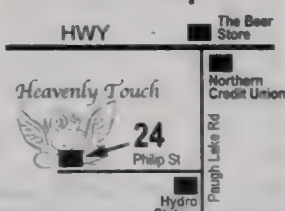
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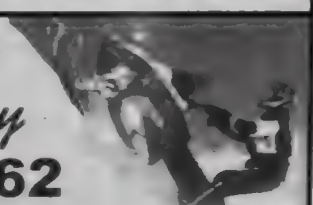
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NHL, NFL, CFL, OUA and more! Aplethora of abbreviations equals an exciting month in the sporting world. With beer leagues commencing throughout the Highlands, fantasy football and hockey pools running amuck, the much-anticipated Wednesday night 35+ entry draft and so much more. This past month has been a sports writers delight. Enjoy!

If Jacko Can Do It So Can I!

Why is it that Michael Jackson gets a bad rap for having children sleep over at his pad? Last time I checked Mario Lemieux had a 17-year-old Sidney Crosby stashed away in his basement. That's right, the magnificent one has taken the young phenom under his wing officially and will parent the NHL's saviour throughout his rookie campaign....and puberty as well. I don't hear anyone bellyaching about this.

Hate To Say I Told You So...But I Told You So!

In one of our many previous tidbits a few months back the Scrawlers predicted RB Jesse Lumsden the former McMaster Marauder superstar would not succeed in the NFL. That was pretty much a given, but the reasons surrounding his demotion from the Seahawks roster were also forecasted by the Scrawlers. Heart was the one thing of note that doomed Lumsden from the start; he rarely suited up in training camp due to a "knee injury". I'm no football superstar; in fact I've never played a single solitary game but I can tell you that if given the opportunity to make an NFL roster I would be participating at training camp in a freaking wheelchair...no questions! This lack of determination has CFL fans in Hamilton drooling over the prospects of Lumsden joining their squad on a permanent basis. You can now find Jesse returning punts for the Hamilton Tiger Cats of the CFL instead of the Seattle Seahawks of the NFL. Told ya!

Who? What? Where?

Yes we are referring to the current state of the NHL. Does anybody know which players went where and who actually remained with their former teams? Did Eddie Shack and Borje Salming come out of retirement to fill the severely talent less Maple Leafs roster with some hope and enthusiasm? Peter Ing where did he end up? I heard Bernie Nichols may have come out of retirement and brought Ron Stackhouse with him. All joking aside fantasy hockey poolies must find themselves scrambling to keep track of all their favourites. Personally I will be going into my draft blind...here's to hoping Gretzky's still available if pick # 2 comes my way!

Suck Is A Strong Word

But the Detroit Lions of the NFL do indeed SUCK! Many surprises surfaced during the first 2 weeks



Illustration by Don Spencer

The Sibling Sports Scrawl

by the brothers greer

of the NFL season but this was not one of them. The Joey Harrington experiment should now come to an end in Detroit although there are currently zero serviceable QB's to take his spot, lucky for him not so lucky for Lions fans. Randy Moss is still dominant in Oakland but his team has started off 0-2. J.P. Losman is the handsome young QB in Buffalo, but the jury is still out on just how desirable his arm is. Peyton Manning is human after all; his Colts are 2-0 however Manning has started off rather slow out of the gates. Daunte Culpepper has thrown 8 interceptions in 2 games,

which would be a great stat if his name were Tim Rattay or Kordell Stewart. The fans in Tampa are all driving shiny new Cadillac's to their home games after watching rookie sensation Carnell Williams bust loose in weeks 1 and 2. RB Ricky Williams no longer smokes pot...until after his next drug test that is. Javon Walker is gone for the season in Green Bay; he turned out to be a great investment after all. Kurt Warner and J.J. Arrington ended up bursting the bubble of fans in Arizona after a highly touted preseason. Turns out you do need an O-line to be successful, besides a good GM who would've ever guessed? Lastly New Orleans won in week one, this was great to see after all they have been through in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Saints players even took time out for relief efforts as well...Go Saints Go!



Nick Cameron from Norland, Ontario has found himself tearing up the college football scene

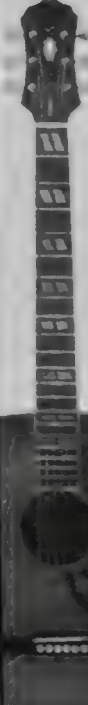
Local Kid's

A Monster!

- For those of you that follow Canadian college football you may recognize the name Nick Cameron. The local lad from Norland, Ontario has found himself tearing up the college football scene. In 3

year the 5' 11" 205 lb running back has accumulated over 400 rushing yards and 5 touchdowns. The most impressive stat is that he does all of this in basically 3 quarters of play each game; often his team is so far out in front he finds himself riding the pine for the entire fourth quarter. In 2004 Cameron had the 3rd highest single season rushing total in Laurier football history! For any readers who don't follow the sport in depth simply stay in tune with the Laurier Golden Hawks and cheer on our local talent. The Hawks also have not lost a regular season game in their past 11. All games can be heard on the radio at AM 570. *(Watch for an upcoming bio on Nick Cameron in a future issue of The Scrawl)

On a final note the Sibling Sports Scrawl will be dropping down to one brother as of next month. It's been a blast! WG



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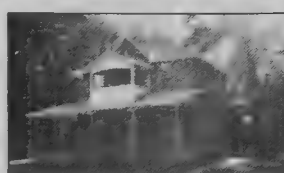


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Running for dollars

By Jerry Grozelle
Co-chair, Minden Terry Fox Run Committee

Saying the people of Minden and area support the Terry Fox Run is like saying Michelangelo was a painter. Both would be gross understatements.

Minden held its 12th annual Terry Fox Run on September 18, the 25th anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. Bringing in more than \$10,000 in each of the previous years, the Minden Terry Fox Run organizing committee set a goal of \$10,000 again this year. There was some concern that the Archie Stouffer Elementary School's inaugural Terry Fox Run might have an effect on the final numbers, but it all goes to the same cause.

There was no need for concern. The Minden run's final total is \$13,000 and the ASES run brought in more than \$8,000. That makes the total for the Minden area more than \$21,000. That is nothing short of amazing, considering some cities many times the size of this community fell short of this mark.

The Minden run was dedicated to the memory of Libby Hurtle and the opening ceremonies of the event featured a ribbon-cutting for cancer survivors, led by Minden Terry Fox Run Committee Treasurer Bob Hurtle, Libby's husband. Libby was a devoted volunteer with the run and a number of other organizations in the community. She was diagnosed with cancer the day after

helping with the 2004 Terry Fox Run. She lost her battle to the disease two months later.

The 2005 Archie Stouffer Elementary School Terry Fox Run was dedicated to five year-old Dawson Hamilton. Dawson was diagnosed with myeloid leukemia in May of this year. This form of cancer is treatable with a suitable bone marrow transplant. Fortunately, a suitable donor has been found and Dawson was scheduled to undergo the procedure on October 3 at Sick Children's

Hospital in Toronto. Dawson was at the ASES Run on September 16 with his dad, Scot Hamilton. Dawson's older brother Tanner took part in the run, which was organized by Diane Peacock and Pat Brezina.

The success of these two events is dependent on the people and the businesses who contributed to the cause. A huge number of volunteers help to make the events run smoothly and the community obviously digs deep to raise money for cancer research.

The organizing committee sends out a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of both of these events. We're sure Terry would be proud.

by Jerry Grozelle



Dawson Hamilton sits in his wagon at the opening of the inaugural Archie Stouffer Elementary School Terry Fox Run. The run was dedicated to Dawson, a Senior Kindergarten pupil at the school. He was diagnosed with myeloid leukemia in May of this year. Dawson's dad Scot Hamilton is flanked by ASES Terry Fox Run organizers Diane Peacock, left, and Pat Brezina. Several local cancer survivors joined Bob Hurtle (photo below) for the ceremonial ribbon cutting to officially open the 2005 Minden Terry Fox Run.



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For the most part, discussion of climate change in the context of coverage of the recent flooding and destruction on the Louisiana coast doesn't exist. Traditionally, journalism about extreme weather — particularly the recent slew of hurricanes like Juan — does not take into consideration the possibility that global climate change might be partially responsible for the destruction that merits hours upon hours of coverage. Exceptions are rare, and usually brief.

Coverage from the week following Hurricane Katrina's landfall has exemplified this dynamic. But at the margins — and largely south of the border — a polarized debate is stirring.

In an article entitled "For They That Sow the Wind Shall Reap the Whirlwind", Robert F. Kennedy Jr. called attention to Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour's role in dismantling US support for the Kyoto protocol.

Hurricane Katrina, Kennedy wrote, "is giving our nation a glimpse of the climate chaos we are bequeathing our children."

In an opinion piece, Germany's Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin wrote that "[Bush] is closing his eyes to the economic and human costs his land and the world economy are suffering under natural catastrophes like Katrina," calling for a renewed commitment to Kyoto.

A lone opinion piece in Mississippi's Clarion-Ledger entitled "Global Warming Beefs Up Hurricanes" pointed to a recent study linking the force of hurricanes to increases in water temperature due to climate change.

"It is easy to assume that the recent rise in [the] number and ferocity [of hurricanes] is because of global warming," said the New York Times. "But that is not the case, scientists say," the Times continued.

Cited by opponents of the first view as "one of the leading experts" on hurricanes, Dr. William M. Gray told the Times that hurricanes are a matter of "natural cycles" of weather.

So which view is correct?

It depends on the question. Did human-caused climate change cause the massive and tragic devastation in New Orleans? Few scientists would be willing to endorse such a claim, due to the multiple possible factors involved. Dr. Kerry Emanuel, the author of a July 2005 study published in Nature linking hurricane strength to rising temperatures, told the Times that "What we see in the Atlantic is mostly the natural swing." Emanuel explained to Democracy Now: "we don't fully understand it... I don't think anyone pretends that we do, but there have been... periods of 20 or 30 years of inactivity fol-

New Orleans is sinking, man, and I don't wanna talk about climate change

Canadian media ignore scientific debate

by Dru Oja Jay

lowed by 20 or 30 years of activity," which are fairly regular.

"Coastal flooding and erosion will increase because rising sea levels will generate higher storm surges even from minor storms." The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) seems to agree. The group's 2001 technical summary states that "There is little consistent evidence that shows changes... in tropical cyclones" from climate change. The report goes on to add, however, that "precipitation intensities... are likely to increase appreciably" with average temperatures rising globally, meaning that flooding is likely to be more substantial when hurricanes hit. Emmanuel's projections of hurricane force falls along these lines: "for every degree centigrade of warming of the tropical oceans, you might get about a five per cent increase in the peak winds."

There are other questions, and other answers. What is the effect of climate change in the impact of Hurricane Katrina and future storms? What is the role of human-caused ecological damages in the devastation currently on display?

In March, a study published in Science by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) stated that with a half-degree increase in ocean tem-

perature, sea levels could rise 11 centimetres from thermal expansion alone (i.e. not counting melting glaciers, ice shelves, etc.).

A 2003 report on climate change in the Gulf Coast region released by the Union of Concerned Scientists said that "coastal flooding and erosion will increase because rising sea levels will generate higher storm surges even from minor storms."

"Whether or not global warming increases the number or intensity of hurricanes, future storm damages are likely to rise substantially because of the increased amount of development in harm's way and the aggravating impacts of higher sea levels and degraded coastal ecosystems," said the report.

But climate change isn't the only human factor being examined in the aftermath of Katrina.

In the online magazine Salon.com, former Clinton aide Sidney Blumenthal wrote that the Bush Administration "cut New Orleans flood control funding by 44 percent to pay for the Iraq war." Blumenthal also notes that the Bush Administration reversed a policy of restoring lost wetlands surrounding New Orleans, "unleashing developers" on wetlands. The result is greater damage from storms. "Every two miles of wetland between the Crescent City and the Gulf reduces a surge by half a foot," wrote Blumenthal.

What continues to be the defining feature of the scientific and political debate, however, is that for the majority of the viewers and readers in Canada, there is no debate.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "raising people's concern and understanding of climate change would help to mobilize public support for climate protection."

As of this writing, some Canadian media outlets — a few CanWest Global papers and CBC online — have reprinted an Associated Press article entitled "Katrina also whipped up warming debate," and subtitled "conclusive link to stronger hurricanes is still missing". Taking its cue from the New York Times, the story limits its scope to the question of whether climate change caused the hurricane, ignoring the concerns raised by scientists in recent months and years.

- » Wikipedia: Effects of global warming
- » Inter Press News: The Endless Hurricane Season
- » National Geographic News: In U.S., Climate Change May Hit Southeast Hardest
- » Susanne Moser, Ph.D. (Union of Concerned Scientists): The Potential Impacts Of Global Warming On Our Coasts And Oceans
- » The Nation: Climate, the Absent Issue
- » The Dominion "http://dominionpaper.ca

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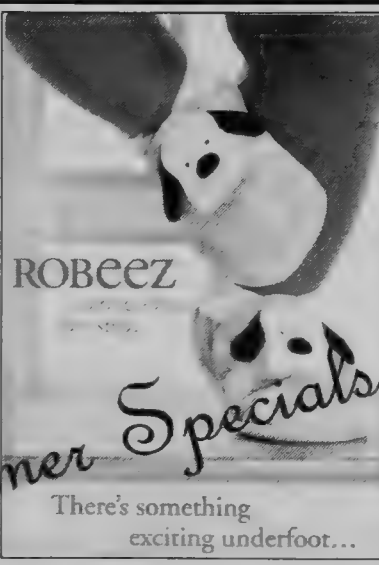
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Calm before the storm

by Dan *the city guy*

Were we all asleep at the wheel? As I sat glued to the television set watching images of the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, I could not help but wonder how such a rich superpower such as the United States of America allowed one of their most famous cities to be literally engulfed under a sea of toxic water. Hundreds of deaths and thousands of homes and businesses conjoined into a mass of rubble. If it was a Hollywood movie it would have been dismissed as sensationalized fiction.

But what is more disheartening is the fact that this disaster was preventable. Not only were residents warned days in advance of the oncoming hurricane, but the potential for this magnitude of disaster was known for years. Politicians, scientists, and even the residents knew that living in an area below sea level was an accident waiting to happen. Then why did they everyone ignore the warning signs? Governments all agreed millions of dollars more were needed to ensure New Orleans was relatively safe from a natural disaster. And in fairness, some work was done. Levees and structures were built. But it was not enough. And everyone knew it. When budget time came around every year, the decision to spend the big money needed was "postponed". Politicians have to get elected. To do this they must promise a combination of tax cuts or minimal tax increases, increase in social programs, decrease debt, and reward those people or corporations that help get them elected. Far down the list is to spend colossal sums of money for infrastructure that will prevent a catastrophe that may happen.

But if there is a sliver of hope that comes out of the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, it is that we may change our attitudes about what is important to us. We may force governments to raise the level of priority for disaster prevention. It will cost us dearly. But we must decide whether it is in our best interest to pay more in taxes and receive less in other services, for the comfort of knowing that our cities will be safe from a natural disaster. We are not just talking about New Orleans here. The entire world has been plagued with natural disasters. California is on a fault line for earthquakes. The entire eastern coastline has the potential for hurricanes. We are bombarded daily with the latest tornadoes, floods, mudslides, volcanoes, and tsunamis. Whether it is from global warming or just a natural cycle of nature, we must be prepared.

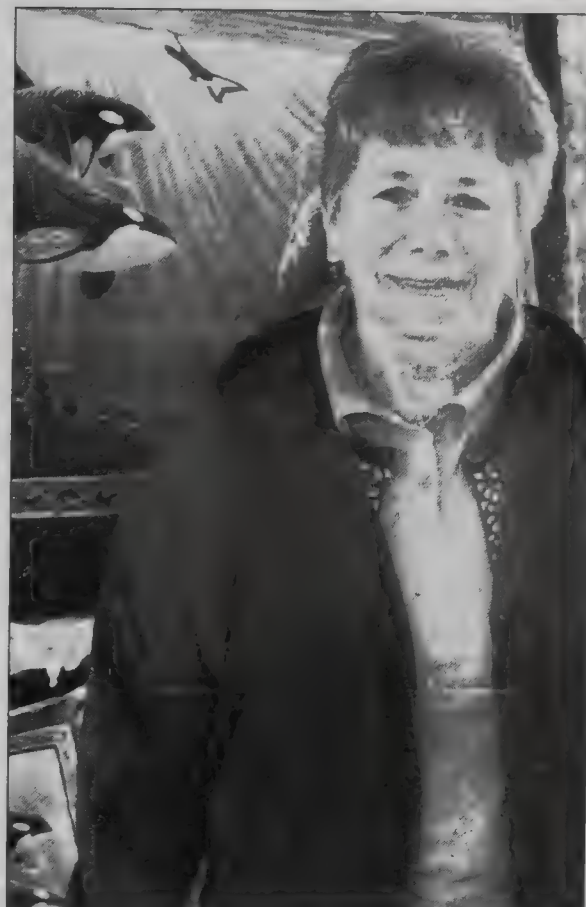
And Canada is not immune from a disaster either. We receive numerous hurricanes and tornadoes yearly in different parts of the country. And let us not forget the major ice storm that devastated Quebec just a few years ago. But what about cottage country? Hurricanes may not be much of a concern there, but as the north opens up to more businesses, lakefront properties, resorts, roads and infrastructure, we do so at the expense of our valuable wetlands. There is nothing wrong with progress. As the population grows it is inevitable. However, as Hurricane Katrina clearly pointed out, careful planning must be done beforehand. We must be more diligent with the effects commercialization has on the environment and the ecosystem of the area being developed. Otherwise, cottage country may be the next disaster waiting to happen.

Wetlands are a rich resource full of birds, insects, turtles and other fauna. Even a small change to their environment can put their survival at risk. But more importantly, these wetlands are like a huge pool that can store any excess water when we have heavy storms or floods. The extra water has to go somewhere. Unfortunately in New Orleans, the city found out the hard way where this water went. But just because the north does not have cities with millions of inhabitants, this does not mean we should avoid the consequences of what mother nature may spring on us. Development can uproot hundreds of acres of prime natural habitat. As damaging as this is to the environment, can you imagine if it was all done for naught because it was later destroyed by a flood.

We have two choices. We can keep expanding our communities with no regard for any negative environmental effects or potential natural disaster. Or we can all spend a little more money to ensure the environment is protected, the developer has regard for the surrounding communities, governments consider long term policies in their agendas, and we all decide what and where we build will likely withstand any natural disaster. Or put another way, we can pay now in preventive medicine, or pay a lot later, perhaps even with our lives. If we let another disaster such as New Orleans happen again, we truly will be asleep at the wheel.

Danny Andru

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The arrest this summer of Marc Emery, also known as the "prince of pot," and the hearing into his possible extradition to the U.S. is a precedent that should alarm all independent thinking Canadians. To many this case may seem insignificant. We've heard statements like, he's just another pot smoker or we should be thankful to be rid of him. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The London Ontario native, now a citizen of British Columbia, was arrested prior to speaking at a cannabis rally in Nova Scotia on July 29. Canadian authorities arrested Emery and two co-accused Gregory Williams and Michelle Rainey-Fenkarek, at the request of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) who are seeking their extradition on Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana, Conspiracy to Distribute Marijuana seeds, and Money Laundering charges. Emery the 47 year old founder and publisher of Cannabis Culture Magazine, is also the founder and President of the B.C. Marijuana Party. Through his "overgrow the government" campaign, and with the help of the approximately 2.5 million dollars in revenue generated annually by his internet seed business, has allowed him to publish his informative magazine, produce his on-line tv show pot tv, attend numerous speaking engagements, help educate people on the growing body of scientific evidence as to the medical and spiritual benefits of Cannabis, as well as the health and social concerns caused by cannabis prohibition here and around the world. Marc Emery is largely responsible for the successful revival of the cannabis movement in Canada and the United States, since the un-constitutional crack-down on cannabis culture and literature in the mid 1980's.

It was important to keep everything out in the open, if income from his seed sales were not fully reported, he would not have been able to use that cash for activism, therefore we would be looking at a legitimate Tax Evasion charge from Revenue Canada, instead of the desperate DEA move we are witnessing now. Emery says every penny he's ever made has gone into the "cause." He doesn't own

A question of Sovereignty

The arrest of Marc Emery, also known as the "prince of pot"

by chris bransfield

anything and he shares a lot. Political parties in Canada and the United States, dozens of Cannabis activists, and several high profile Cannabis legal defense teams back up his claim. Its no wonder the powerful corporate interests that are the US administration, want to shut him up.

Some commentators I've read justify Emery's extradition on the grounds that we have a legally binding treaty with the United States (The Canadian Extradition Act 1999) and since technically Mr. Emery is a criminal, they insist he must be extradited. This is nonsense. According to the council of Canadians Fact Sheet on Marc Emery, selling viable Cannabis seeds in Canada is a crime on the

books only, with the exception of one case in 2000 when Ian F. Hunter was convicted of selling viable seeds and sentenced to a \$200 fine. Such a small token penalty has had an effect on the crown. It has not enforced the Cannabis seed prohibition in Canada since 1968. The penalty facing Mr. Emery and his co-accused in the United States is ten years minimum, and a maximum penalty of life in prison. There is even a possibility of the death penalty for Mr. Emery a he is the "head" of or "associate" of a "criminal organization" responsible for the cultivation of more than "60,000 marijuana plants." Clearly this is out of all proportion to the Canadian penalties.

Mr. Emery never touched US soil, the extradition act states: "if the conduct of the person, had it occurred in Canada, would have constituted an offence that is punishable in Canada." I interpret that to mean the act is intended to cover crimes committed by Canadians outside of Canadian jurisdiction and fleeing back to Canada. This particular "crime" was in fact committed within the jurisdiction of the CANADIAN Department of Justice. The US postal service did the actual smuggling, and US citizens actually ordered the seeds. Mr. Emery simply provided a service, and like every other internet based provider of a service, was under no obligation to ensure that the persons ordering seeds from him, were entitled to medicinal cannabis or not. When a "friend" of mine logs onto an adult internet site, it is they who must declare they're over the legal age of consent, and it is not the responsibility the online service provider to verify this. Mr. Emery's company simply does not have the mandate, the infrastructure, nor the expertise to demand or corroborate that type of information, and in fact the onus is on the consumer to ensure their own personal compliance.

Finally, if Mr. Emery is guilty of money laundering, then Revenue Canada is complicit in the fact that they accepted millions of dollars in clearly designated cannabis seed money, and when NDP Health Critic Svend Robinson asked the federal government, where Canadians with a medicinal

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continued from page 24

cannabis need could get the necessary seeds, the official reply was they could "get them on-line." Cannabis Activists know, that the reason the US government is attempting to shut down Mr. Emery's business is something entirely different than their stated concern over public safety. While DEA officials in Seattle focused on accusations of drug dealing in their public statement, a column by Joel Connelly in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on August 5th quotes a statement by DEA chief Karen Tandy suggesting political motivations: "Today's arrest of Mark (sic) Scott Emery, publisher of Cannabis Culture magazine and the founder of a marijuana legalization group, is a significant blow not only to the marijuana trafficking trade in the US and Canada, but also to the marijuana legalization movement... Hundreds of thousands of dollars of Emery's illicit profits are known to have been channeled to marijuana legalization groups active in the United States and Canada. Drug legalization lobbyists now have one less pot of money to rely on."

Clearly this is an attempt to shut down an effective, legitimate political movement, a political movement that has been growing rapidly in spite of seventy plus years of the most outrageous propaganda, propaganda that has been evolving despite being discredited ad nauseam. Propaganda that continues to this day. (*1 & 2)

With the US ignoring international law at will, ignoring its own nuclear test ban treaties, refusing to sign the land mine treaty, refusing to ratify the Kyoto Accord, refusing to recognize the International Criminal Court. (ICC) ignoring trade agreements and rulings. None of these reasons, while significantly frustrating and indicative of the American psyche, are not reason enough to deny this extradition request. The reason we must deny

this request is not only that it is political in nature and clearly it is, but it defies the very treaty the DEA is relying on for extradition. There is no moral or judicial equivalence with the Cannabis laws in the US and Canada as the treaty demands. That is the punishment for the "crime" in both countries is substantially different from one to the other, therefore the treaty must not apply.

A poll last year for the advocacy group NORML Canada, showed for the first time that more than half of Canadians effectively support legalization, (*3) with 57 per cent reporting that people should be "left alone" if they are caught with small amounts of cannabis for personal use. Every single study ever commissioned by any western government (*4) from the Indian Hemp Commission report of 1894, various US Army studies through the fifties and sixties, Richard Nixon's Shafer Commission, the Le Dain Commission to the Special Senate Committee in 2002, has recommended legalizing Cannabis. There are over 127 million cannabis users worldwide, 2 million in Canada alone. The majority of Canadians want the police to focus on more important crimes, like corporate fraud, embezzlement, racketeering, and political corruption, and when they get those under control the rash of petty thefts that occur regularly should be next.

US and Canadian officials, especially the police authorities, refuse to acknowledge any medicinal benefits, yet the scientific evidence is conclusive and indicates the medical benefits we know of are just the tip of the iceberg. The corporate yes persons that are the federal Canadian government, continue their seventy year tradition of outright lies and distorted truth in order to deny access to this important natural healing herb. Cannabis, which is deadly for Cancer, Strokes, Viral infections, and numerous other ailments, is direct com-

petition for the often dangerous, side effect riddled, synthetic, petroleum based, pharmaceutical chemical drugs pushed by huge multi-nationals, and has been strategically targeted by the corrupt Government officials of North America since 1927. In fact federal, provincial and municipal police forces have been very busy recently, busting voter/citizen sanctioned Compassion Clubs in their respective countries. In the 1990's in Canada, police budgets stood in stark contrast to all other government department budgets, in that there has been a dramatic rise in police budgets through the last decade, which I may remind you was a period of significant depression and belt tightening and while all other government departments were drastically cut. This has been a vain attempt to try to stem the growth of the Cannabis trade in Canada, not only will this misguided police state mentality continue to erode our constitution, but at the same time the use of Cannabis has doubled (*5) indicating what a dismal failure this entire social engineering fiasco has been and continues to be. If the US can force the extradition of a Canadian citizen for effectively challenging and peacefully demanding political reform, for a law so out of touch with Canadian sensibilities, where will it stop?

by Chris Bransfield

Next month: The Medical Argument for Cannabis

(*1) *Grass (the movie)* by Ron Mann

(*2) *The Emperor wears no clothes* by Jack Herer www.jackherer.com

(*3) SES Research Poll nov 24, 04 cannabisnews.com/news/thread19956.shtml

(*4) www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/

(*5) Stats Can. study released Nov. 24, 04 www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040721/d040721a.htm

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NOVEMBER 5TH

Home

at the cottage

FEATURE

What's Cooking

with Mrs T and her Guests

Not Just a Pretty Shell

The winter squash harvest is happening right now in a field near you! The brilliant greens, oranges and yellows are winking at you from the shelves at the market, enticing you to take them home. We're used to seeing them as table centerpieces, but winter squash can be downright mystifying when it comes to actually cooking them.

This season, get past that pretty-but-tough exterior and get to the mellow, sweet heart of the squash. When cooked, that orange and yellow flesh gets buttery-soft and tastes delectable in an amazing array of savory and sweet dishes. And, not only is squash versatile and tasty, but it's packed with beta-carotene and vitamin C to keep you healthy and happy through the cold months. Winter Squash in Every Way

There are dozens of varieties of winter squash — from softball-sized acorn and sweet dumpling to beach ball-sized Hubbard and banana. No matter which kind you're buying, select squash that's heavy for its size and has a dull rind: shiny skin tells you that the squash was picked before it had time to grow ripe and flavorful. Store winter squash in a cool, dry place until you're ready to make it into something delicious.

Decisions, decisions. First of all, don't bother eating bland field pumpkins — that is, the kind sold for carving jack o' lanterns. Instead, select the little dark orange variety called sugar pumpkins. Most other winter squash varieties vary only slightly in flavor and texture: sugar pumpkins, as well as butternut, acorn, delicata, Hubbard, kabocha and dumpling squash can all be used interchangeably in recipes. The only common variety that requires unique treatment is the stringy-fleshed spaghetti squash.

Butternut and delicata squash have fairly thin skin, making them easy to peel when raw. For most other varieties, don't waste your time or risk losing a finger by trying to wrestle the peel off of

them while raw; just cut them in half or quarters and bake them at about 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). For squash puree, let it cook until the flesh is really soft, then scoop it out of the shell and run it through the food processor. To serve the squash in cubes, bake it just until tender, then cut it into wedges the way you would a cantaloupe, and trim the flesh away from the skin with a paring knife.

Pureed squash is most often used in pies, cookies, cakes and breads, but give it a try in savory dishes like soups, sauces, mashed potatoes or risotto. Cubed, roasted squash is wonderful when topped with brown sugar and dried cranberries, or sprinkled with breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese. It's also exquisite when tossed with pasta and accented with other fall flavors like sage, bacon, and sauteed leeks and mushrooms. Or, make a marvelous salad by tossing chilled squash cubes with mixed greens, red onions, dried cherries or figs, and roasted pumpkin seeds.

The first pumpkin pies were nothing like we make today. The most available sweetener was maple syrup, so here's to those sweet pioneers!

Maple Pumpkin Pie

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 small sugar pumpkin
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 1/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup real maple syrup
- 1 1/4 cups half-and-half cream
- 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie shell

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Cut up pumpkin, and remove seeds. Place in large baking pan, and cover with foil or lid. Bake for 1 hour, or until very tender. Remove from oven, and set aside to cool. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Scrape pumpkin into a food processor; puree until smooth. Measure 1 1/2 cups pumpkin puree. In a large bowl, mix together 1 1/2 cups pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, allspice, and salt. Stir in maple syrup, half-and-half, and flour. Mix in eggs one at a time. Pour filling into unbaked pie shell.

Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 1 hour, or until centre is set.

Note: Freeze any remaining pumpkin puree in small, leak proof containers. Fill within one inch of the top; the contents will expand when frozen.

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Horoscopes

in the stars

FEATURE

Virgo

On the 10th, you'll figure it all – or, well, some of it anyway – out, and you'll be ready for the romance coming your way. The 20th, take a long hard look at your work life and figure out what you'd like to do better. The 25th, loosen up (physically and emotionally), and you'll be super fit for the fabulous days on your calendar the 27th and 28th.

Libra

The 3rd and 4th, you'll be feeling on the ball – and on top of the world. The 9th, some bluesy feelings could take a little of the jazz out of your life, but by the 13th, you'll have revved up and be hearing a very romantic lyric or two. The 17th, that little romance could flare up into a full-on relationship. By the 21st, you'll be sharing all your innermost thoughts and feelings with somebody, and it feels good.

Scorpio

The 5th and 6th, you find you are managing emotional issues (and, actually, everything else) very nicely. The 11th, come up with a few plans for the future and then get right down to implementing them. You'll have a judgment call to make the 18th. Look for results by the 21st or 22nd. The 27th, you have another itty-bitty (or great big) secret or two on your hands.

Sagittarius

If you ask some hard questions the first week of the month, by the 7th, you'll be feeling pretty darned free of some restrictions you didn't realize you had. The 13th, you'll have found your voice in a whole new way, and the 17th, you're a bundle of feel-good energy. Fantastic. The 21st, you need to talk about it, and the 26th, go ahead and take a gamble on something.

Capricorn

Improving your communications is going to bring some amazing accomplishments your way. Keep this in mind the 6th. The 11th, get ready for some terrific news, and the 15th, you will be surprised and thrilled by the results of a creative project. The payoff, though, is more than worth it, as you'll see the 27th, 28th, and 29th, when you meet somebody really worth talking to.

Aquarius

Work on getting grounded. It's a good time of the year to reassess, what you find the 6th might surprise you. The 10th, you feel restricted. Well, change can do that. The 14th and 15th, try to figure out what it is your heart needs. An answer or two could come your way the 20th or 21st. The 26th, a power struggle could present a real learning opportunity.

Pisces

Holding on to some old ways because you're afraid of getting holes in your heart? The 6th, watch for rip tides, that's what happens when you wade in these waters! The 20th, take it slow, and the 25th, take some time off from relationships and spend that energy on your fitness routine. The 29th, it's more intense one-on-one interaction when it comes to feelings.

Aries

The 8th, you'll feel revived – is it all those nuts and berries you've been eating? All those apples? The 13th, think about where you're heading at work, and the 16th, you'll have one or two deeply moving inspirations. The 20th, get chit-chatty and get in touch with a few old friends. The 25th, there's romance in the air. The 30th and 31st, wrap up the month by starting a few new projects.

Taurus

The 9th, you'll feel better grounded than a lightning rod, and you'll be attracting a whole lot of electricity. The 13th, ask your buddies what they think you should do about any power struggles you're involved in. The 17th, hold off on any big shopping sprees. The 23rd, have some people over. The 27th, a romance heats up, and by the 28th, it gets downright toasty!

Gemini

The 7th, you could find a real soul connection. The 11th, a difficulty of some kind will show you something very important. The 16th, any tongue-tied feelings you had are long gone. The 21st, you have what can only be called a great day. The 26th, it looks like you'll be discussing some serious-but-exciting stuff at work, 30th, it's more discussion about those tricky feelings.

Cancer

The 5th and 6th, you could be filled with financial gain. The 11th, you might want to cuddle up by the fire. So, uh, why don't you? The 19th, you are charming the galoshes off of somebody, and by the 21st, you may have charmed their gators off, too. The 26th, it's fine to go shopping, but don't go nuts! The 29th, you're back in communication mode.

Leo

The answers you come up with could be very illuminating – especially the 6th. The 10th, you're getting down to business with your health. The 14th, you've really started to access some creative energy. The 17th, you learn something extremely useful, and the 21st you put it to use. The 25th, you have the first of two fantastic days ahead.



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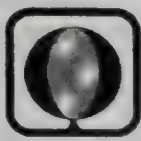
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In full gryphon bloom



Brenda Lee Cowen (from Haliburton) and David Maris own and operate Gryphon Blooms in Bancroft

David and Brenda moved to Bancroft in 2002 to start Gryphon Blooms, a Landscape Design and Installation business.

Gryphon Blooms Garden Centre opened the following year and they continue to do landscaping as well.

The couple who met in 1994 enjoy being able to assist people with beautifying their property by creating outdoor areas that address both function and form. They specialize in the use of natural rock to construct retaining walls, pathways and stairs. At the Garden Centre, they provide information about all facts of gardening including the appropriate soil composition, plant recommendations and helpful plant placement tips.

Elaine Campbell and Randy Simpson are on staff at Gryphon Blooms. Elaine was one of the founding members of the Bancroft Horticultural Society and has created beautiful gardens at her home in Bancroft (despite the deer). Randy has worked in landscaping for several years and besides being a very hard worker, has a great eye for design. They look forward to welcoming Jan Clothier-Nielson to their staff in 2006. Local suppliers of plant material are invaluable to them and they are fortunate to have Nielson Greenhouses supply the annual stock.

The Garden Centre will be closing just before Christmas and will re-open in Spring 2006. They will be offering Christmas wreath making workshops in November, be sure to give them a call at 613-332-3589.

David who also does home renovations will be kept busy over the winter months, they also hope to find some time for a vacation.

Tip from the pros: Many cottagers require shade-loving plants that are also drought-tolerant. The weeping trees, such as the Weeping Mulberry were popular this year. They are both hardy to this zone and are a attractive foundation trees.

☆ Out and About



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Seemore report - file #1

ANIMAL ANTICS -THE BAT

by: Marvel Henning

Mrs. Meaningwell was a pillar of the community, contributing to all the worthy charities, belonging to useful women's groups, and a staunch supporter of her religious choice. She lived alone in an elite home on a high hill, and being at times bored as well as inquisitive was given to observing the happenings in her neighbourhood below the hill.

Events are not always as they appear though for example, the episode with the bat.

Bill and Samantha Smith lived down the road from Mrs. Meaningwell, consequently their comings and goings fell under her scrutiny fairly regularly. Now it had been a long day in the print shop, with frustrating phone calls, numerous interruptions and aggravating machinery glitches, so it was with anticipation they looked forward to a leisurely bath and a sound night's sleep.

Samantha completed her bath, and went to the laundry room to retrieve a nightgown from the as-yet un-ironed basket; so she draped a towel about her person, not bothering with her glasses, went to get a gown. Bill, meanwhile, disrobed and proceeded to run the bath; he was standing one foot in the tub when Sam's scream halted him in mid-stride so-to-speak. While sorting through the clean laundry, Sam had been alerted by fluttering noises, and discovered a bat zooming about looking for an exit. Without her glasses it looked as big as a helicopter, and whatever there is about bats that sends some women into hysterics, succeeded in doing that for Sam; she grabbed her turbaned head, dropping her body towel, and fled towards the kitchen, colliding with several chairs enroute. Bill, grabbing the nearest attire - a child's robe, slung it around his waist as he ran to the kitchen as well.

By now Sam was screaming, "A bat! A bat! Get the broom!" and the collie dog waked from her nap was racing around barking, enjoying this new game.

Bill yelled back, "It's only a bat, don't

kill it!"

By now Sam was wielding the broom at anything that moved, the dog, the terrified cat that climbed up the curtains pulling them to the floor, and even at Bill who lost his dressing gown in evading the broom. The bat, equally terrified, flew to the peak of the cathedral ceiling and clung there trying to assess the antics of those crazy humans.

"Open the bloody door," roared Bill as Sam took another swing in his direction with her broom, and the bat, now thoroughly confused fled to the relative darkness of the living room, pursued by Sam and her broom, and Bill with a dustmop with which he hoped to herd the bat outside.

To Mrs. Meaningwell the scene appeared to be one of complete mayhem with the usually oh-so-quiet Smiths pursuing one another with mop and broom, and who knows what else, proceeding to do royal battle in the altogether. The bat was out of her line of vision; so fearing a real domestic crisis or maybe one of those wild orgies that gets whispered about at quilting bees, she phoned the local police.

The bat finally discovered the open door and escaped to the safety of the night. Sam and Bill retrieved their respective attire and prepared to continue plans to retire. All was not calm yet; Bill discovered the bath water still running; he flung his robe down to stem the river running down the hall. Sam came with the recovered mop to help sop up the mess, and it was while they were at this sodden chore that the police arrived.

After considerable explanation and gesticulations to illustrate their actions they all had a good laugh. By mutual agreement they said not one word to Mrs. Meaningwell. So she stewed for hours without ever knowing the truth, and nothing irks like curiosity piqued but unfulfilled!!

Seemore next month!

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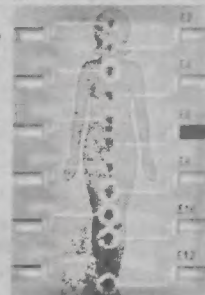
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There are many terms for a phenomenon that defies logic or scientific proof of what it is, but water witching, or dowsing works!

There are many people who swear by it, and many many cases where it worked to produce water exactly where predicted; the reasons for its being are as many as the titles for it; it is called divining, witching, dowsing, shabdomancy and even doodlebugging. It is thought by some to be a gift or talent claimed by only certain individuals while others believe it works because of an altered energy field created by moving water, or breaks in magnetic polarity from the disturbed soil, or another form of tapping into the collective matrix. Some people believe they have sensitivity to earth magnetism, or water radiations and that the dowsing rod or forked stick concentrates this sensitivity. Dowsing is used for other items as well as water - gas, old road beds, building foundations, septic tanks, metal and/or mineral deposits, unmarked graves, fish in the lake, to sort eggs to determine the sex of the chicken, to detect pregnancy, even to finding fleas on a dog!

There are more effective tests for pregnancy (and time alone will determine this) and close examination of the dog, especially if he's scratching a lot will determine if he has fleas; so obviously as well as practical applications for dowsing, there are some ridiculous ones!

I will limit my remarks to dowsing for water, for which I have personal experience. What is interesting is that it only works for certain people; half of my family can witch for water, and the rest have no ability at all to do so. I have witnessed the results of dowsing many times, but I could hold the dowsing rod forever and traverse an entire province and never get an indication of a water source. Not only that, but if I touch the rod or stick while someone else is having success using it, all activity ceases immediately! Obviously whatever magnetism or sensitivity they possess is thoroughly negated by my lack of it.

The origin of dowsing is not clear, but it is reported to date back 7,000 years. The Egyptians used images of forked rods in some of their artwork. In Europe it was used in the Middle Ages to find coal deposits. A grave inscription in Brittany 4500 - 5000 years ago was the earliest sign of it. The first time a dowsing rod was described in literature was in the 1540 publication on mining called "De re Metallica" by Georgius Agricola.

Divining rods, and all common dowsing devices are the simplest forms of electroscopes. Divining rods are changes with static electricity from the dowser's own body; this static electricity can be seen and measured by a simple millivolt meter. The willow crutch (Y stock) another type of dowsing tool begins to pick up an attraction to the charged object (we're discussing water here) prior to reaching the close proximity of the object, and has its greatest amount of pull directly over the object.

A gift or witchcraft Dowsing

by: Marvel Henning

The first time a dowsing rod was described in literature was in the 1540 publication on mining called "De re Metallica" by Georgius Agricola.

A great variety of objects have been used for dowsing - scissors, pliers, welding rods, jewellery, needles, bent coat hangers (metal ones), crowbars, guns, whale or shark bones, barbed wire, ordinary fence wire, tree branches (preferably willow) or a branch with a pithy centre. The most common items are bent coat hangers or "Y" shaped (forked) branches mostly because of their availability. Obviously though the power of dowsing is not in the equipment used, but somewhere else. The source of power is the object of diverse opinions: is it a gift, or talent? Or is it a spirit of the supernatural? There are staunch supporters for either belief. The Bible condemns it as a source of divination and yet many clergy do not condemn its use. There are some prominent pastors, missionaries, and evangelists who not only believe in it, but practice its use to find water. Others believe that the power is straight from the spirit world and the occult, that opens the door to Satanic influences over which we then have no control.

The most common method of dowsing is "field dowsing" where the dowser, gripping the stick or rods traverses an area of ground back and forth until the rod swings together, or the stick points to the ground at a specific location. Stronger pull on the rods if the person is barefoot. This is called "witching the area."

Remote dowsing is done from a distance, often with use of a map or sketch of the area in question. There are no limits to the distance one can be from the actual site. Often a pendulum is used in this method. I have had no personal witness to this method.

Witching an area is done by walking the area back and forth in different directions, somewhat like following a grid, but the point that the rod indicates water will be the same, no matter from what

direction it is approached. Some will predict the depth to the source by counting the paces from which the rod first starts to move to the actual strongest site. I have seen this method used successfully. Another method is to set a partially filled glass of water at the point indicated for the site; a gold ring (must be gold) is suspended on a thread inside the glass above the water; the ring is held perfectly still, and it will commence to swing, striking the side of the glass. Count the number of strikes before it ceases to swing and you will have the depth in feet to the source. I have seen this method used with great accuracy. Because I do not have dowsing ability, I could hold the ring there until the thread rotted, and it would never stir a hair. Even though dowsing works, some people will argue that there is underground water everywhere, if you go deep enough for it, and you can enhance your chances of finding it by studying the lay of the land. Some ravines and valleys indicate possible underground streams, and certain plants and trees of the area indicate damp roots, but you could drill a lot of dry holes before hitting a good source.

The old original "pounder" well drills drove a bit down by pounding a weight on a pulley; every time the bit hit, the ground vibrated for some distance around it, jarring any natural cracks or fissures in the rock, allowing water to enter. The newer diamond drills turn so fast that much dust and heat is created and forced into any natural openings, sealing them off. Drilling was much faster but you had to hit the underground source "dead-on". Now water fracturing pumps water under extreme pressure down the drill hole to clear out the debris and open the cracks.

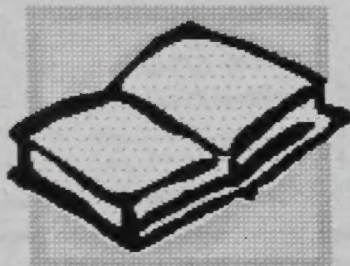
However the drilling method has nothing to do with the dowsing which finds the source in the first place. Serious dowsers do not advertise their gift, or act possibly from the desire to escape ridicule from non-believers. He or she will not charge for the service but do it as a favour to mankind. Some believe that if you were to charge you would lose your ability to dowse.

If you see someone holding a forked stick, or divining rods in front of him and walking back and forth over some property, he is merely searching for underground water, or maybe gold, but is not performing some mystic rite. Or is he/she? Who knows for sure the origin of it's source of power. Some God fearing dowsers who believe implicitly in their "gift" have a "Dowsers Prayer", it reads: "Lord, guide my hands, enhance my sensitivity, and bless my purpose that I may be an instrument of Your power and glory in locating what is searched for".

There are no proven answers one way or the other; so you must decide for yourself the reason that it works. Either you believe, or you don't, but regardless, it works!!!

by Marvel Henning

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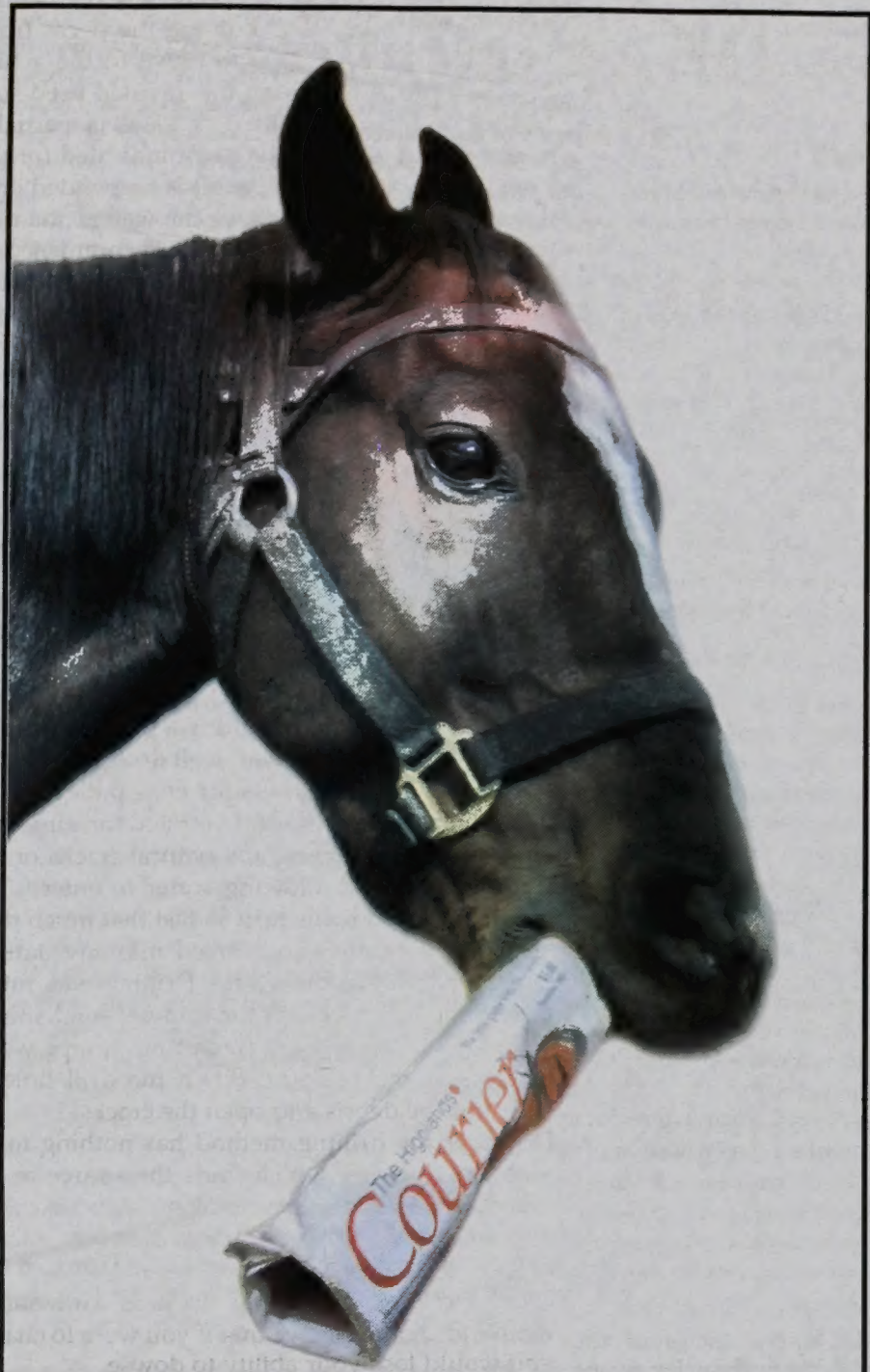
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October Couriercutie



It's a tough job, but photo by Andrea Hillo

Hot Scale 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Our eagle eyes spotted this cutie in Bancroft. October's cutie can be found working hard at Bancroft Sport and Marine, revving up some engines! Ouch!

What a great opportunity!

How great, the chance to have a young bald eagle perch on your arm! Bob Cumming and his daughter are pictured here, but several lucky people (including myself) were allowed the experience of being up close and personal to the majestic bird. It was awesome!

Andrea



Letters to the editor

To the Editor

I've just read and enjoyed the article (September Courier) 'Our Justice System' by Danny Andru and would like to comment further. First shouldn't it be called 'Our Injustice System' as the criminal gets the justice? Why should we be perturbed at the criminals, lets deal with the cause. There would be no more criminals if we had true laws. Remember that most politicians are lawyers and they make the so called laws which are only encouraging crime! Sadly we must pay taxes to enforce these so called laws. Doesn't the 'Youth Criminal Justice Act' (You Can Just Attack) say that

youngsters under 18 can't be named? It stands to reason that if a person does crime with no penalty for five or six years before age 18, they will be well entrenched in evil and are aware they are encouraged to continue. Aren't our lawyers legal criminals? Will those in our governments make laws that are against the illegal ones? Prime Minister Martin and Premier McGuinty are lawyers and be fore warned Ontario Conservative leader John Tory is also one. Vote for a lawyer and be part of the problem not the solution.
Winston E. Ralph
Bancroft

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Dynamic Duos *Partners in business and life*



Greg and Rose Tibbitts own the Shamrock Shell station in Haliburton. Because the couple are constantly on the run, we decided to try a Q&A, so they could answer the questions when they had a chance. Here's how it went:

Where did you grow up?

I (Greg) grew up in the Eastern townships of Richmond, Quebec; to be exact, I was born on the Francis River. It's much like Haliburton, not as many lakes, but just as pretty. I was in my early teens when Quebec released bill 101 (the French Language Charter that eliminated English as a language in Quebec). Since it was 'Bill 101 or the 401' we chose the 401, and that got me to Ontario.

Rose was born in Malta, an island located 60 miles south of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. It is a beautiful island that I have visited many times. She has two sisters who emigrated to Canada earlier, so she decided to make the move at the age of 18.

Where did you meet?

When Rose came to Canada, she went to work with her sister at Carter Automotive, in Bramblea, Ontario. I was working there as a Millwright.

Was it love at first sight?

Hardly, I asked Rose out for a date and she said that she had a headache. I went to the drive-in in Brampton with a friend instead. On the way home, we stopped at a set of lights and saw Rose sitting in the front seat of some guy's car, exiting the very same drive-in! So much for the headache. That would be 35 years ago.

When did you get married and where?

We got married in Brampton on July 15, 1978, at the Anglican Church. While Rose is a devote catholic (being Maltese-it's the predominant religion), they had a year-long waiting list and she didn't want to take the chance that I would change my mind.

How many kids do you have?

We have two kids: Tracy, who is 22, and Tara, who is 18. I am very proud of both of them. Tracy just graduated from Seneca College's Aviation Program and is pursuing her career in aviation. Tara just started Early Childhood Education at Seneca's King Campus and seems to have settled quite nicely; good luck Tara, I'm sure you will succeed.

When did you buy Shamrock?

We bought the Shamrock in 1993, not having a clue as to how the retail business worked. At the time, I was a truck driver hauling lumber into the U.S. and Rose was a stay at home Mom as well as part time babysitter, after working for 18 years at Carter Automotive. She was laid off when the plant moved to LaFayette Tennessee (thank you free trade agreement).

What do you like about working together?

Working together has its own unique problems; for example, when the day is done, who do you go home to whine to? Believe me, that just doesn't work. On the other hand, it has its advantages. Nobody in town will admit this (tongue planted firmly in cheek), but sometimes I can be a little crusty. Rose will often come to the rescue, smoothing things over.

What are the funniest moments at work?

I would write a whole page on this, mostly at someone else's expense, so I won't. However, one story does come to mind that I do find particularly amusing. I had a guy come in in a brand new Jaguar something or other (no, not you Wayne!), and he said when the pump shuts off, do not add another penny of gas. Well the pump shut off at \$49.99. He handed me a 50 dollar bill. I said thanks, have a good day, and he said 'what about change?' I couldn't believe it, so I asked him: 'you're not seriously going to send me in for a penny?' when he replied (as his wife is elbowing him) 'why not, it's mine,' I figured, 'Why not?' I reached into my pocket, pulled out a loonie, flipped it to him and told him to keep the change, as it was obvious to me that he needed the money so much more than I did. I wouldn't have wanted to be part of that conversation for the next 50 miles!

What are your future plans?

Status Quo, but without work.

Who's the boss?

I'm not in the position to answer this, so it probably answers itself. If you think I'm the sole boss here, just ask Rose. She'll set you straight.

What are your hobbies?

Because of the nature of our business, we don't have much time for hobbies. When time permits, I like to fish, fly, and explore the area. Rose likes to travel, but in this business, it's a little difficult. People don't realize that this is a 7-day-a-week 15 hour a day commitment; while it is rewarding, it doesn't come without sacrifices.

Gas prices

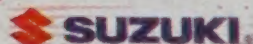
This is the topic that everyone has been waiting for, as far as my station is concerned, it's pretty simple. I get fuel almost every day. When I do, I phone a special number (called BDP hotline), which connects me to a machine. From there, this voicemail message asks for my location and security code, then tells me how much I just paid per litre for the load I got. After the load is deposited, I adjust my price so that I make between 4 and 5 cents per litre. I should add this is before credit card and air miles fees which on a \$30.00 fill could add up to as much as three cents per litre I have been doing this exact process for the last 11 years. This means that I have not had a raise in 11 years. While often we and the Shell corporation have butted heads over issues like deliveries and fuel prices, we continue to stay with Shell for the reason of fuel quality. I know that the fuel in my tanks can be trusted in important situations, like when I put it in my airplane. I have to be confident that everything will work as promised.



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